

# The Chat

Vol. 76

SUMMER 2012

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# THE CHAT

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SUMMER 2012

No. 3

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Cover: Northern Gannet, 27 Jan 2012, off Johnny Mercer Pier in  
Wilmington, NC. Photo by Phil Fowler at the CBC Winter meeting



## 2012 Spring Migration Counts in North Carolina

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**Marilyn Westphal**

*P.O. Box 1427, Hendersonville, NC 28793 [mjwestph@ret.unca.edu](mailto:mjwestph@ret.unca.edu)*

Twenty-one North Carolina count areas submitted data for the 2012 spring migration count, seven from the mountains, thirteen from the piedmont/upper coastal plain, and one from the coast. The 2012 count period extended from 25 April to 26 May. The 2012 North Carolina spring count recorded a record number of count areas (21), participants (492), total birds (101,149), and total party-hours (1,099.82) and the second highest number of total species (236) at least in the past 13 years. Field or party-hours are determined by adding the total number of birds counted and dividing that number by the total time in the field of all groups or "parties" of participants in the count. "Parties" usually consist of one to five participants.

This was a great year for most spring counts. Many count areas had higher than average total birds and even though there were also more participants than in past counts, the birds per field-hour (72.11) were also well above average (70.32) for recent years. Surprisingly, the most common species on the count was Cedar Waxwing. Several count areas found large numbers of them and all except one count found at least some. Other species in the top ten largest number included, in descending order, Northern Cardinal, European Starling, American Robin, American Crow, Common Grackle, Mourning Dove, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Canada Goose. Fourteen species were found on all 21 counts including Turkey Vulture, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, and American Goldfinch. Seven of these 14, including American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, American Robin, Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, and American Goldfinch, were also in the top fifteen with the highest number of individuals, thus would be considered the most common and widespread species in North Carolina. Of these probably only the American Robin and Eastern Towhee would be considered common in all areas of the state, in a wide variety of habitats and at all elevations. The Indigo Bunting may be joining this group in future years as it has become common in all areas of the state and even at the highest elevations of the mountains where it once was uncommon. Some species that might be expected on every count were missed not because the birds were not present in a particular area, but because of low participation for a count. There are also some species that are common in most parts of the state, but absent from the higher elevations of the mountains.

Unusual species found on the count include four Eared Grebes and a Rufous Hummingbird (Southern Pines), a Least Bittern (Onslow County), a Cattle Egret (Roanoke Rapids), a Sora (Mecklenberg County), a Golden-

winged Warbler (Raven Rock SP), a Bay-breasted Warbler (Balsam Mountains IBA), and a Wilson's Warbler (Transylvania County). Also uncommon, but found in two count areas are American Bittern (Mecklenberg and Durham), Glossy Ibis (Southern Pines and Kerr Lake), Mississippi Kite (Raven Rock and Onslow), Virginia Rail (Forsyth and Onslow), Black-billed Cuckoo (Balsam Mountains IBA and Mecklenberg), Sedge Wren (Mecklenberg and Durham), Gray-cheeked Thrush (Forsyth and Chapel Hill), American Pipit (Mecklenberg and Durham), Blue-winged Warbler (Durham and Falls Lake), Tennessee Warbler (Hanging Rock SP and Forsyth), and Lincoln's Sparrow (Mecklenberg and Durham).

Details of individual counts including names of compilers and participants as well as count highlights and a list of species found exclusively on that count follow.

## Count Area Details

### ***Mountains***

**Transylvania County: count date 6 May, 111 species, 3,888 individuals, 31 participants, 61.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 45–75°F, cloudy to mostly sunny and pleasant at lower elevations, cold and very windy with some rain at higher elevations. Elevation ranges from 2100 to 5600 ft.

Compiler: Norma Siebenheller (sieb@citcom.net)

Participants: Marvin Barg, Bruce Cox, Janet Duggar, Elizabeth Galloway, Jerry Griggs, Jeanne Grimmenga, Gary Harris, Kathy Harris, Richard Jackson, Mike Judd, Bill Lovejoy, Carolyn Mills, Bill Minnich, Sherry Minnich, Bill Moore, Kathy Neil, Janie Owens, Carolyn Powell, Randy Powell, Bill Siebenheller, Norma Siebenheller, Barrie Taylor, Kathleen Taylor, Bill Thomas, Shirl Thomas, Charlie Threatte, Erika Thumer, Noel Thumer, Connie Updyke, Camille Ziegler, and Don Ziegler

Exclusives: Wilson's Warbler, Rusty Blackbird

Notes: With a total of 111 species, this count falls in the middle range for recent Transylvania efforts. Waterfowl have fallen drastically since the closure of the Ecusta plant. The pond is still there, but it isn't being aerated as before, and birds are not attracted to it as they were in earlier years. Also, many of our former shorebird puddles have been eliminated, so that category of birds has fallen as well. And motorcycles in the hundreds have taken over the Blue Ridge Parkway, making it hard to hear the singing of distant birds thus cutting numbers for many species—indeed, cutting out some species altogether. But there are bright spots, such as the recent discoveries regarding Swainson's Warblers, which have proven to be far more widespread than ever before believed, and the sighting of an adult Bald Eagle over Lake Toxaway, marking the first time this species has been recorded on this count.

Many of our deficiencies could be remedied by the addition of some experienced birders who could cover territories that are currently being overlooked altogether. We await that day.

Norma Siebenheller

**Great Balsam and Plott Balsam Mountains IBA: count date 19 May, 79 species, 2,989 individuals, 24 participants in 9 parties, 66.25 party-hours.**

Weather: Cool (50–55°F) and cloudy/foggy in morning, mild (60–70°F) and partly cloudy in afternoon. Wind 0–10 mph. Elevation range from 3500 to 6100 feet.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@ret.unca.edu)

Participants: Sue Cameron, Tim Carstens, Dean Demarest, Tom Flagg, Bill Gifford, Jamie Harrelson, Doug Johnston, Mike Judd, Chris Kelly, Gail Lankford, Herman Lankford, Bob Olthoff, Naomi Otterness, Len Pardue, Sue Perry, Catherine Reid, Kitty Reynolds, Joanne Rittenberg, Steve Semanchuk, Mark Simpson, Tom Tribble, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal, Troy Wilson

Exclusives: Black-capped Chickadee, Bay-breasted Warbler

Notes: This was the 7th annual Balsam Mountains spring count (includes the Blue Ridge Parkway from just north of the Pisgah Inn to the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains as well as adjacent trails and roads and the Shining Rock and Middle Prong Wilderness).

Fog shrouded the high mountains during the morning of the 7th annual Balsam Mountains spring bird count and birds were singing less than usual, which probably largely accounted for the lower numbers of individuals found on the count. The fog cleared by late morning and the rest of the day was clear, mostly calm, and a lovely day for a count. As usual the most common species found on the count was Dark-eyed Junco (329) followed closely by Chestnut-sided Warbler (303) and Eastern Towhee (284). This area of the Blue Ridge Parkway is characterized by large sections of grass and heath balds, which is ideal habitat for species that prefer openings in the forest. Rounding out the top ten species were Black-throated Blue Warbler (137), Black-throated Green Warbler (135), Canada Warbler (131), Veery (130), Indigo Bunting (117), American Robin (115), and Cedar Waxwing (107). With the exception of Indigo Bunting these are typically the highest count species on this count. Indigo Bunting numbers have been increasing in recent years and in the past two years they have bumped Blue-headed Vireo off the top ten list.

Some interesting finds on the count included a Black-billed Cuckoo singing in the Heintooga area found by the team of Bob Olthoff and Doug Johnston. Heintooga has been a fairly reliable location for this species over the years. The three teams covering the contiguous areas of Black Balsam, the Shining Rock Wilderness, and Graveyard Fields found a nice total of 29 Alder Flycatchers. Twenty-two Least Flycatchers also were found in the Shining Rock Wilderness and along three sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Quite unusual for the high elevation was a Yellow-breasted Chat

found along the parkway about a mile from Wagon Road Gap located by the team of Steve Semanchuk, Tom Tribble, and Joanne Rittenberg. Three teams found a total of 6 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on the count including an active sapsucker nest hole. Other proof of breeding activity during the count included very young Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse chicks.

Other interesting finds included four Red Crossbills found by Jamie Harrelson and Sue Perry and late migrating Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers found by the team of Gail and Charlie Lankford and Len Pardue.

All-time high counts included Common Yellowthroat (61), Scarlet Tanager (53), and Indigo Bunting (117) while Blue-headed Vireo (100) and Golden-crowned Kinglet (85) were at an all-time low. The number of Kinglets has been trending down over the years of the count and may be related to the mass death of the hemlocks.

The Black-capped vs. Carolina Chickadee question continues in the area. As has been the case for several years all chickadees heard singing between Black Balsam and Richland Balsam were singing the Black-capped song, making designation of this species difficult and controversial. It will remain a question until further research is conducted.

In the evening four of us who hadn't had enough birding yet went out looking for woodcock and owls and found displaying American Woodcock along the parkway a short distance past Richland Balsam and after dark heard one and saw one Barred Owl and heard two Northern Saw-whet Owls along the parkway.

As usual, great fun was had by all on this always interesting and often favorite count of many birders in this area.

Marilyn Westphal

**Henderson County: count date 12 May, 107 species, 3,904 individuals, 14 participants in 9 areas, 46.75 party-hours.**

Weather: Partly cloudy with mild temperatures.

Compiler: Jim Neal (jlbjneal@gmail.com)

Participants: Barrie Cliff, Paulette Cliff, Vince Connors, James Craig, Bill Fisk, Donna Fisk, Peggy Franklin, Marrisa Jamison, Norm Lantz, Rich Leppingwell, Jim Neal, Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal and Ruth Young

Exclusives: none

Notes: Fourteen (14) people worked nine areas in the county and found 107 species and 3,904 individual birds. The total of 107 species was just below the average number normally seen, with the previous low being 100 species in 2011 and the highest being 120 species in 2006. The 3,904 total birds were the highest ever in our 15 years collecting spring migration data. The lowest total number of birds was 2,015 in 1999, when there were 14 people covering only 8 areas and the previous high was 3,705 in 2002 when there were 18 people covering 10 areas.

This year there were 11 species with more than 100 individual birds seen, and five of these were over 200 individuals. The Song Sparrow was most numerous at 256, followed by the European Starling (236), Cedar Waxwing (218), Eastern Towhee (209) and American Crow (200). Others species with

over 100 individual birds included Northern Cardinal (197), American Robin (189), Red-winged Blackbird (179), Common Grackle (138), Carolina Chickadee (117) and Indigo Bunting (103). The Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Song Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal were found in all count areas. Twenty-one species of warblers were seen, with the Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Northern Parula and American Redstart being the most plentiful. Ruffed Grouse, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Grasshopper Sparrow, Orchard Oriole and Baltimore Oriole were among the species most difficult to find.

The most unusual thing about this year's count was that the birds were plentiful. Finding 11 species with more than 100 birds each when we usually have only 5 or 6 species with over 100 birds was very unusual. And finding five species with more than 200 when we seldom have more than one species with greater than 200 individuals was highly unusual. Overall, it was a job well done and I want to thank all those who participated.

Jim Neal

**Buncombe County: count date 13 May, 107 species, 5,082 individuals, 23 participants in 9 parties, 64.55 party-hours.**

Weather: Morning temperatures were in the mid-50s with overcast skies and rain showers. The weather did not improve as the day wore on; rainy conditions persisted into the afternoon, with temperatures in the upper 50s to low 60s.

Compiler: Jamie Harrelson (jharrelson84@gmail.com)

Participants: Todd Arcos, Lily Dancy-Jones, Peggy Franklin, Tony Geiger, Claudia Harrelson, Jamie Harrelson, Doug Johnston, Mike Judd, Gail Lankford, Herman Lankford, John LoCurto, Sue Perry, Jim Poling, Brison Robertson, Russell Roe, Steve Semanchuk, Mark Simpson, Liz Skiles, Vin Stanton, Tom Tribble, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal and Ruth Young

Exclusives: none

Notes: Comparisons are with data from historical results for count years 2001 to 2011. This year's count produced the lowest number of species since at least 2001, possibly because of the rain showers that occurred intermittently throughout the day as well as the late date of the count. Despite the low number of species, we had the third-highest number of individual birds. The following species were found in low numbers: Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ovenbird, and Common Grackle. Species that were found in the highest numbers compared to historical data included Wild Turkey, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, European Starling, Blackburnian Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and American Goldfinch. The 2012 count produced no Northern Bobwhites or Yellow-rumped Warblers—a first over the twelve-year period. A single Northern Saw-whet Owl was found in the section that runs from the Craggy Gardens picnic area north to

Balsam Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Good news from the count: Brown-headed Cowbird and House Sparrow numbers were the lowest they've been since at least 2001.

Thanks to all who braved the unpleasant weather to participate in this important citizen-science project!

Jamie Harrelson

**Black Mountains IBA: count date 26 May, 65 species, 1,595 individuals, 12 participants in 5 parties, 38.95 party-hours.**

Weather: Sunny, clear, and mild. Temperature range 50–75°F. Wind 0–5mph. Elevation range for this count is 3,000 to 6,684 ft. with most of the count area above 4,000 ft.

Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestph@ret.unca.edu)

Participants: Ron Clark, Jamie Harrelson, Doug Johnston, Bob Knight, Charlie Lankford, Gail Lankford, Sue Perry, Joanne Rittenberg, Debra Segal, Steve Semanchuk, Mark Simpson, Tom Tribble, and Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: none

Notes: This was the 6th annual Black Mountains count (2008 missed because of BRP closure).

With 65 species this count had the highest species count of the six years as well as a higher than average number of individual birds.

The Black Mountains include many of the highest mountain peaks in the Appalachian chain and warm, sunny, calm mornings in May are a rarity, so teams on this count were surprised and thrilled when birding conditions were ideal on count day. The fabulous weather was probably the main reason for the highest species number and higher than average total individuals over the six-year period of the count. Of the top three species counted, Dark-eyed Junco (232) and Black-throated Green Warbler (159) repeated in the top two spots, but rising to third place was Indigo Bunting (91), a species whose numbers seem to be increasing over the years. Rounding out the top ten for the count were Golden-crowned Kinglet (88), Black-throated Blue Warbler (85), Blue-headed Vireo (82), Veery (73), Eastern Towhee (72), Ovenbird (68), and Canada Warbler (66). Knocked out of the top ten this year were Winter Wren and Red-breasted Nuthatch, while Ovenbird moved into the top ten for the first time. The decline in Golden-crowned Kinglets has been quite dramatic since the first two years of the count when it took the top spot with 197 in 2006 and 234 in 2007. Numbers have declined until this year when they stabilized.

For the second year Alder and Least Flycatchers have returned to Mt. Mitchell, with three Alder and four Least found by Gail and Charlie Lankford. Other highlights included two Red Crossbills found on Bald Knob Ridge, two on Wilson Boundary Road and three along the parkway north of Bald Knob Ridge. Another interesting highlight was a singing Magnolia Warbler on the Bald Knob Ridge trail first seen and heard two days earlier. This may indicate an attempt to breed in the area.

In the evening five participants remained to search for woodcock and owls. However, the long reliable location for displaying woodcock at Stepp's



Gap produced nothing this year. The team did hear a Northern Saw-whet Owl at that location, though. Although no Barred Owls were heard in the evening, fortunately two teams had found them during the day.

Marilyn Westphal

**Grandfather Mountain IBA: count date 11 May, 78 species, 1,157 individuals, 12 participants in 4 parties, 33.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Starting temperature 39–47°F, ending temperature 54–63°F. Sunny and clear with wind 0–30mph with windier conditions at higher elevations.

Compiler: Jesse Pope (highcountrybirder@yahoo.com)

Participants: Bob Cherry, Robin Diaz, Tom Driscoll, Steve Foster, Janet Palmer, Jesse Pope, Doris Ratchford, Jim Ratchford, Chelsea Rath, Stephen Senter, Audrey Whitlock, Bob Williams

Exclusives: none

Notes: We had a great count! We ended up with 78 total species for the day. Several good birds were found including a Bald Eagle that was seen by Bob Cherry and his crew as well as by Stephen Senter and me. The bird flew probably 75–100 meters out in front of Stephen and me at eye level flying southwest while we were snacking at Viaduct View on the Daniel Boone Scout Trail! At the same time Bob Cherry and his crew were watching the bird from Rough Ridge along the Tanawha trail on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Both teams just happened to be in the right place at the right time to see the bird. We've been seeing one hang around Linville for several weeks now, so I'm not sure if this was the same bird or not. We picked up several other late migrants still passing through and a large portion of our summer breeding birds as well. We missed six species that we picked up last year, which will be obvious on the data sheet.

We had a couple Magnolia Warblers on the count, but we couldn't find the pair at Flatrock along the Cragway Trail this year. The Flatrock pair is usually very reliable, so I was pretty disappointed not to see at least one of them. We found a singing male near Alpine Meadows on the Grandfather trail. I haven't heard the pair at Beacon Heights yet either this year. We also found two singing Yellow-rumped Warblers on the D. Boone Trail about 0.2 mile from Callaway Peak. We got good looks at both birds, and they are certainly great to see in full breeding plumage.

Jesse Pope

**Hanging Rock State Park IBA: count date 13 May, 66 species, 594 individuals, 15 participants, 20.50 party-hours.**

Weather: 60–75°F, mostly cloudy, elevation range from 1200–2400 ft.

Compiler: Phil Dickinson (pdickins@triad.rr.com)

Participants: Jean Chamberlain, Nita Colvin, Carol Cunningham, Doug Demarest, Phil Dickinson, Allison Gagnon, Carol Gearhart, Bill Gifford, Tom McKay, Ron Morris, Laura Phail, Jeremy Reiskind, Sue Rupp, Andrew Thornton, Jeff Turner

Exclusives: none

Notes: This count was held in 2001 and 2002, and then resumed in 2009 as part of Audubon Society of Forsyth County's IBA commitment. Six teams covered different routes covering about 25 miles on foot and 5 by car. Along the Indian Creek Trail just below Window Falls, Ron Morris and Jeff Turner observed and heard a singing Swainson's Warbler at close range. This was the first documented sighting of this species in the county. Several other species were seen or heard for the first time on this count including Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue Grosbeak and House Finch. We conducted the count 7–10 days later than in recent years, and this produced some interesting results. Most notably, no Black-throated Blue or Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported compared to 30 and 45 respectively in 2011, and there were only 12 Ovenbirds compared to 45 last year. Many of us thought that Black-throated Blue Warblers might nest in the park, but perhaps not. On the other hand, Louisiana Waterthrush and Black-and-white Warbler were seen feeding young. Red-eyed Vireo was the most common species with 111 individuals. This was one more than in 2011, so the date change seemed to have no effect. The park continues to reveal few Wood Thrush, only two this year at lower elevations, and our counts have never found more than six.

Phil Dickinson

### ***Piedmont***

**Iredell County: count date 29 April, 100 species, 1,718 individuals, 9 participants, 12.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Pleasant, sunny day with temperatures from 53–82°F.

Compiler: Garnet Underwood (guwood@gmail.com)

Participants: Sam Cathey, Parks Collins, Cynthia Dickerson, Lee Hollifield, Mary Hollifield, Larry Marlin, Janice Powell, Garnet Underwood, and Ron Underwood

Exclusives: none

Notes: none

**Mecklenberg County: count date 28 April, 145 species, 8,836 individuals, 27 participants in 10 parties, 88.75 party-hours.**

Weather: Cool and overcast clouds, temperature never above 70°F.

Compiler: Jeff Lemons (birdsallot@gmail.com)

Participants: Larry Barden, Louise Barden, Robert Bustle, Susan Ellerman, Linn Finger, Jan Fowler, Phil Fowler, Sharon Freedman, Robert Gilson and family, Ken Kneidel, Jeff Lemons, Jill Palmer, Taylor Piephoff, Tammy Sanders, Tom Sanders, John Scavetto, Don Seriff, Chris Talkington, Steve Tracy, Judy Walker, Pam Whistler, David Wright, and Marcia Wright

Exclusives: Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Sora

Notes: Thanks to lots of great counters and some cooperation from the weather, we had a great Charlotte Spring Bird Count, setting a new record in 2012!

There seemed to be a stationary low that stalled around Charlotte over count weekend, causing almost a mini-fallout or at least a backing up of birds in the Charlotte area. It rained the Friday before the count and was mainly overcast during count day staying below 70°F. The count day total was 145 species plus 3 domestic ducks. The previous high count was 125. Warblers were a highlight for the day with 23 warbler species recorded including 66 Northern Parula, 39 Black-throated Blue Warbler and a surprising 24 Yellow Warblers. Other highlights included several write-ins: Black-billed Cuckoo and White-crowned Sparrow in Pineville, Little Blue Heron at McAlpine Creek Park, Herring Gull on Lake Wylie, American Black Duck, 2 Lesser Scaup in different locations, 2 Sedge Wrens at different locations, American Bittern, Sora, Horned Lark, Lincoln's Sparrow (photo) at Renaissance Golf Course, and a juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron (photo) along the creek at Mint Museum. The Horned Larks are now a repeat at this location and it could be a probable breeding site. The night-heron was one of few ever seen in Charlotte.

Count week birds included: Wild Turkey and Bald Eagle on Friday. Sunday, many birders converged on Latta Park and the warbler fallout continued. We added Blue-winged Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Kentucky Warbler and Blackpoll Warbler giving a total count week of 27 warblers, with 23 of them on count day. Monday, some birders were following up on a recently located swamp within the circle and located a Purple Gallinule. This is the second spring in a row that a Purple Gallinule has been located in the Charlotte area. This bird stayed at least a few weeks and was seen by many.

Waders included American Bittern, Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-Herons, an adult Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Great Blue Herons on nests at Lake Wylie, and at least 5 Great Egrets. There are increasing numbers of Great Egret reports around Charlotte in the spring and summer and it may be just a matter of time before a nest is located.

Some of the misses included Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Bay-breasted Warbler, Bank Swallow, Marsh Wren, Bobwhite, and any terns.

Thanks again to all that participated and made this a record-breaking count.

Jeff Lemons

**Forsyth County: count date 5 May, 127 species, 7,670 individuals, 52 participants, 114.00 party-hours.**

Weather: 64–84°F, winds W 5–21 mph with gusts to 25 mph, clear changing to thunderstorm about 3:00 PM

Compiler: Ron Morris (ronmorris@triad.rr.com)

Participants: Don Adamick, Kim Brand, Nita Colvin, Carol Cunningham, Scott DePue, Phil Dickinson, David Disher, Susan Disher, Cynthia Donaldson, David Dolittle, Felipe Estela, Brent Gearhart, Carol Gearhart, Gardner Gidley, Margaret Gidley, Bill Gifford, John Haire, Sven Halling, Bill Hammond, Susan Hammond, John Hammond, Elaine Hammond, Doug Hochmuth, Marbry Hopkins, Royce Hough, Carol Hunt, Bill Jackson,

Warren Jones, Brenda Kilpatrick, Ray Kandt, Terri Maness, Craig McCleary, Jane McCleary, Marilyn McDonald, Tom McKay, Ana Clara Melo, Heather Moir, Ron Morris, Ann Newsome, Laura Phail, Paul Powers, Jeremy Reiskind, Dillon Rowell, Gene Schepker, Lois Schneider, Sabrina Setaro, David Shuford, Miles Silman, Allison Sloan, Bill Sugg, Chuck Thompson, Cindy Thompson, Katherine Thorington and Gray Tuttle

Exclusives: Ring-necked Duck

Notes: The count was conducted on Saturday, 5 May 2012 when the weather was warmer than usual with clear skies and light winds until a thunderstorm blew in about 3:00 PM and cut short the birding of a few. Fifty-four participants identified 7,670 birds of 127 species. That's about the average number of species, but more than 2,000 greater than the average number of birds, an increase of nearly 36%. One species accounted for half that increase. Cedar Waxwings numbered 1,526 birds—three times the previous high count of 506 in 2006.

The best bird of the day was a Virginia Rail found at Salem Lake by John Haire. Last year, there were twenty spring bird counts in North Carolina and no Virginia Rails were reported. In addition to the extraordinary number of waxwings and the rail, we recorded the highest numbers in the last 21 years for an additional 13 species, and the second highest count for another 8 species. High counts included American Crow (219), Northern Raven (9), Red-bellied Woodpecker (104), Cliff Swallow (205), Carolina Chickadee (151), Tufted Titmouse (167), Brown-headed Nuthatch (30), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (83), Eastern Bluebird (138), Prairie Warbler (12), Eastern Towhee (140), Northern Cardinal (390), and Indigo Bunting (130). Second highest counts in 21 years were recorded for Fish Crow (41), Tree Swallow (27), Barn Swallow (223), Eastern Phoebe (49), Great Crested Flycatcher (29), Pine Warbler (30), Common Yellowthroat (56), and Blue Grosbeak (23). Northern Parulas (42) and Black-throated Blue Warblers (49) were present in significantly higher than average numbers, too. Winter resident Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers were low at 31, as were White-throated Sparrows at 13. Weather conditions have a great deal of influence over the timing of migrant passage, and a big front swept many warblers through Forsyth County just a few days before the count. On 29 April, three birders found 23 warbler species in Reynolda Gardens alone. On count day six days later, it took 54 birders to come up with 21 warbler species in the entire county. But with historic high numbers of so many species resulting in the highest ever total number of birds, it was a pretty darned good day of birding.

Ron Morris

**Greensboro: count date 28 April, 124 species, 7,143 individuals, 28 participants, 100.85 party-hours.**

Weather: 51–55°F, winds NE 10–15 mph with gusts to 22 mph, partly cloudy.

Compiler: Elizabeth Link (elzlink@yahoo.com)

Participants: Nancy Adamson, Carolyn Allen, Diana Bowman, Louise Brown, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Jim Eldrett, Herb Hendrickson, Cynthia Knust, Jane Lawrence, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Clarence Mattocks, Ana Clara Melo, Gregg Morris, Ron Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Ann Presnell, Danny Royster, Tom Shepherd, Wallace Sills, Jim Strickland, Emily Talbert, Emily Tyler, Ann Walter-Fromson, George Wheaton, Melissa Whitmire

Exclusives: none

Notes: The species count for 2012 (124 species) was slightly below average (127) for the last ten years, as was the number of individuals. While party-hours and miles were within the average range, the number of participants (28) was below our recent average of 32. A front moving slowly through the area on count day brought cool weather and gusty winds from the northeast, which may have suppressed bird movement into the area. By contrast, on the day after the count, birds had flooded into the area behind the front and brought one of the best birding days of the spring, adding a number of "count week" birds.

Numbers of warblers were notably low. Some species, such as Cape May, Canada, and Chestnut-sided Warblers, were represented by a single sighting. Most others were represented by only a few individuals.

Highlights of the count were sightings of Northern Bobwhite, which have become increasingly rare in Guilford County; and a Peregrine Falcon, a very rare visitor to the area.

Elizabeth Link

**Southern Pines: count date 29 April, 143 species, 6,649 individuals, 25 participants in 12 parties, 80.88 party-hours.**

Compiler: Susan Campbell ([susan@ncaves.com](mailto:susan@ncaves.com))

Participants: Jennifer Archambault, Carol Bowman, Susan Campbell, Jay Carter III, Bob Ganis, Tina Ganis, Gabriela Gonzales-Garrison, Scott Hartley, Tom Howard, Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin, Alicia Jackson, Matthew King, Marjorie Ludwig, David McCloy, Carolyn McDermott, Bill Mullin, Dan Pieroni, Bruce Sorrie, Lowell Strine, Susan Strine, Rick Studenmund, Dave Williamson, Nancy Williamson, and Cassie Willis

Exclusives: Eared Grebe, Rufous Hummingbird, Lark Sparrow

Notes: It was a record count day for Southern Pines with a total of 143 species, including at least ten that were unexpected, and with only 25 participants, and on a day with excellent field conditions (usually a bad sign). It was most definitely birdy down this way—all day!

Highlights included both Horned and Eared Grebes, Bonaparte's Gull, and Glossy Ibis at Woodlake, a Merlin and Lark Sparrow on Ft. Bragg, and lingering Pied-billed Grebes, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Rufous Hummingbird (my yard) in Whispering Pines. There were also late Northern Harriers, Swamp Sparrows and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. We recorded twenty species of warblers including Black-throated Green, Palm, Blackpoll and a Blackburnian.

We had some record high numbers of more expected species such as Common Loon, Osprey and Northern Rough-winged Swallow as well. Finally, during the count I documented activity at our first-ever Great Blue Heron rookery (2 nests) in Moore County, on Thagard Island in Whispering Pines.

Susan Campbell

**Chapel Hill: count date 12 May, 122 species, 8,997 individuals, 39 field observers and 2 feeder watchers, 124.00 party-hours.**

Weather: low 48°F, high 76°F; wind SSW 5–10 mph; mostly cloudy with no rain.

Compiler: Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Participants: Terri Buckner, Catherine Carter, Tony Carter, Mary Cavenar, Bob Chase, Will Cook, Dave Curtin, Tom Driscoll, Kent Fiala, Cynthia Fox, Maurice Graves, Richard Graves, Steven Graves, Perry Haaland, Nancy Hinrichs, Bo Howes, Ali Iyoob, Dietrich Kessler, Gene Kingsley, Mark Kosiewski, Ken Lundstrom, Marty McClelland, David Murdock, Judy Murray, Lynn Ogden, Jane Oliver, Jill Paul, Peter Perlman, Mike Schultz, Doug Shadwick, David Smith, Judy Smith, Edith Tatum, Shelley Theye, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Amalie Tuffin, Phil Warren and Scott Winton.

Exclusives: none

Notes: The Chapel Hill spring count on May 12 was pretty normal overall, with 122 species, near the 10-year average of 124 species. Observer effort was well below average at 124 party-hours (average 147.5), and so the number of individual birds counted was a low 8997 (average 10,747). The number of birds per party-hour, though, was as normal as you can get (72.6, average 72.6).

The outstanding rarity of the count this year was the same species as the outstanding rarity last year: King Rail. Ginger Travis and Marty McClelland heard three calling from the rushes at the Morgan Creek arm of Jordan Lake, which they covered by kayak, and Dave Curtin saw one in flight at the Little Creek impoundment. This is only our third for the count, with the first only in 2008, though they have nested at Mason Farm. Perhaps they're not all that rare, but just have gone unnoticed in past counts. Gray-cheeked Thrushes appeared on the count for the first time in a decade, as seen by Tom Driscoll's party and heard by Ali Iyoob (they have a distinctive nocturnal flight call). Will Cook and company found a few good birds at the southwest Durham wastewater plant, including Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons used to be rare on the count, but lately they're being found in increasing numbers as more are breeding near impoundments on the outer fringes of Jordan Lake. This year Scott Winton and Mike Schultz got 10 at the New Hope Creek impoundment on NC 54. Other goodies: Northern Harrier, American Woodcock (flushed at Mason Farm), Eastern Screech-Owl, and a late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Some great count week birds: on May 10 Lois Schultz saw a late Dark-eyed Junco

and on May 13 Ali Iyoob got Blackburnian, Canada, and Wilson's Warblers at Mason Farm.

We set only a few record highs: the total of 6 Cooper's Hawks edges past the old record of 5 set in 1999, the 4 King Rails beat last year's 2, 29 Least Sandpipers easily surpasses the 20 in 1996, and 10 Great Egrets ties the tallies from 2002 and 2007.

The big miss this year was Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, the first miss in the history of the count, which started in 1952. This year's count was a week later than average to avoid a conflict with the Carolina Bird Club's 75th anniversary meeting, but we've had several counts as late or later. We get 89 Myrtles on an average spring count. We set two other record lows: 37 Wood Thrushes and 1 White-throated Sparrow. We average 101 on a spring count, but the last 5 years have all been below average. Many observers have noted the decline of Wood Thrushes in recent years. The lack of White-throated Sparrows is no doubt related to the late date of the count (51 on an average count). Other unusually scarce species include Canada Goose (lowest since 1997), Wood Duck (1990), Black-and-white Warbler (2000), Black-throated Blue Warbler (2000), Prairie Warbler (1989), Eastern Towhee (1999), Swamp Sparrow (1996), Scarlet Tanager (1996), Northern Cardinal (1999), and Red-winged Blackbird (1999).

Team honors: Pam Timmons and Perry Haaland, covering the Dairyland Road area, got the top species count with 82, edging out Ali Iyoob at Battle Park with 80 and Will Cook's Mason Farm team with 79. Bob Chase counted the most individual birds, 882.

Charles W. "Will" Cook

**Jordan Lake: count date 6 May, 120 species, 10,471 individuals, 55 participants in 24 parties, 156.16 party-hours.**

Weather: A very pleasant spring day, with temperatures ranging from 66°F in the morning to 72°F in the afternoon. The skies were overcast early and became partly cloudy as the day progressed. Winds were calm to 10 mph, and there was no precipitation.

Compiler: Norm Budnitz (nbudnitz@gmail.com)

Participants: Patsy Bailey, Barbara Beaman, Elizabeth Bishop, Todd Bishop, Stephen Buczynski, Norm Budnitz, Carl Chelette, Carol Chelette, Barbara Coffman, Patrick Coin, Will Cook, Tom Driscoll, Martha Girolami, Perry Haaland, Mary Harbison, Russell Herman, Carl Hintz, Loren Hintz, Karen Hogan, Mark Hogan, Bo Howes, Gene Kingsley, Sasha Konkel, Mark Kosiewski, Tom Krakauer, Jennifer Maher, Beth Mancuso, Marty McClelland, Don McCormick, Steve McMurray, Melinda Meade, Valerie Means, Kyle Mills, Robin Moran, Judy Murray, Peggy O'Neil-Ross, Rick Payne, Peter Perlman, Bob Rybczynski, Mike Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Josh Southern, Sterling Southern, Brian Strong, Paul A. Thomas, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Andy Upshaw, David Van Ness, Millicent Van Ness, Margaret Vimmerstedt, Phil Warren, Sarah Weil, Rouse Wilson and Joe Zellers

Exclusives: none

Notes: Fifty-five observers (well above our 10-year average of 47) in 24 parties participated, seeming to indicate that the beautiful weather brought out the troops for good coverage. We tallied 10,471 individual birds (avg. 8,168) in 120 species (avg. 124) in 156 party-hours (avg. 137). Some highlights, more or less in taxonomic order, follow.

Common Loon, 1—Josh and Sterling Southern.

Pied-billed Grebe, 1—Marty McClelland, Ginger Travis, and Sarah Weil.

Horned Grebe, 1—Doug Shadwick and Bob Rybczynski.

American Kestrel, 1—Andy Upshaw, Rouse Wilson, Joe Zellers.

King Rail, 3—found again by kayak: Marty McClelland, Ginger Travis, and Sarah Weil.

Laughing Gull, 1—Rick Payne.

Caspian Tern, 3—1 each found by 3 different parties: Doug Shadwick and Bob Rybczynski; Tom Krakauer and Mike Schultz; Steve McMurray.

Loggerhead Shrike, 2—1 each found by 2 different parties: Barbara Coffman, Beth Mancuso, and Kyle Mills; Norm Budnitz and Gene Kingsley (the latter shrike has been seen in the same area for several years).

Bank Swallow, 2— Tom Krakauer and Mike Schultz.

Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1—Carol and Carl Chelette

Our larger than average number of observers recorded quite a few new records: Wood Duck, 82 (previous high was 77 in 1995); Osprey, 69 (46 in 2007); Bald Eagle, 58 (54 in 2007); Red-headed Woodpecker, 52 (36 in 2011); Eastern Wood-Pewee, 79 (65 in 2011); Great Crested Flycatcher, 174 (154 in 2003); Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 155 (103 in 1992); Brown-headed Nuthatch, 114 (93 in 2002); Northern Mockingbird, 210 (169 in 2011); Cedar Waxwing, 409 (366 in 2011); Prothonotary Warbler, 54 (48 in 2009); Chipping Sparrow, 282 (223 in 2011); Northern Cardinal, 466 (432 in 2002 and 2003); and Brown-headed Cowbird 199 (187 in 2002).

Some thoughts on a few of these new records:

Ospreys are thriving.

And so are Bald Eagles.

The water being impounded by beavers may be creating habitat for Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Does more residential/suburban habitat lead to more Northern Mockingbirds?

Does more residential/suburban habitat with fruit-bearing trees lead to more Cedar Waxwings?

All those Brown-headed Cowbirds were born and raised by other species.

In recent years, Will Cook (and party) and Phil Warren have led the pack in total numbers of species seen on our spring counts. But this year, two new parties have come forward to claim their prizes. Too bad there aren't any. Doug Shadwick and Bob Rybczynski took the gold with 85 species and Jennifer Maher, Robin Moran, and Judy Murray took silver with 84. And of



course, Will and Phil were still in the money, tying for bronze with 81 species.

Norm Budnitz

**Durham: count date 25 April, 132 species, 5,835 individuals, 24 participants in 15 parties, 64.85 party-hours.**

Compiler: Mike Schultz (ross.gull@verizon.net)

Participants: Terri Buckner, Stephen Buczynski, Norm Budnitz, Will Cook, Tom Driscoll, Colyer Durovich, Bo Howes, Ali Iyoob, Gene Kingsley, Tom Krakauer, Leona Krauth, Marty McClelland, Judy Murray, Natalia Ocampo-Panuela, Jill Paul, Isabel Reddy, Deb Reilly, Bruce Richardson, Douglas Shadwick, Lois Schultz, Michael Schultz, Virginia Travis, Amalie Tuffin and Scott Winton

Exclusives: Vesper Sparrow

Notes: Notable species included a Lincoln's Sparrow found by Tom Driscoll's team along the power line cut, about 0.5 miles south of Hwy 751 in the Duke Forest. The bird was at the edge of the forest in some dense shrubs and blackberry plants. Paul Glass, Gene Kingsley, Bruce Richardson, and Norm Budnitz located some interesting birds at Brickhouse Road in the Butner Gamelands including a King Rail at first light calling from the beaver impoundment, three Pied-billed Grebes calling off and on all morning, a singing Sedge Wren at the top of the trail to the pond near the parking area, and a Horned Grebe across from Knap of Reeds Creek. Finally Ali Iyoob located a singing Veery, Vesper Sparrow, and Magnolia Warbler.

Mike Schultz

**Wake County: count date 12 May, 109 species, 3,776 individuals, 31 participants in 13 parties, 52.50 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 50–78°F, winds calm, clear to 20% (partly) cloudy.

Compiler: John Connors (john.connors@ncmail.net)

Participants: Julie Angerman-Stewart, Robin Baumgart, Joe Bearden, Karen Bearden, Erla Beegle, Halbert Carmichael, Karen Carter, John Connors, Denis DuBay, Jaap Folmer, Lena Gallitano, Diane Hardy, Dan Harvey, Sue Harvey, Nate Howell, Lily Ivanov, Mark Johns, Betsy Kane, Will Kimler, Kyle Kittelberger, Gerry Luginbuhl, Jim Luginbuhl, Eleanor McCoury, Chris Moorman, Jim Mulholland, Monica Nees, Jeri Smart, Jane Smith, Allie Stewart, Mary Waller and Ray Wittington

Exclusives: none

Notes: Nice weather throughout the day. Temperatures ranged from 50–78°F with calm winds and partly cloudy skies. Falls Lake and Walnut Creek were not included in this year's count and Lake Johnson and Umstead State Park had limited coverage.

Some interesting observations include: Great Egret (6) at Lake Wheeler; American Coot (1) at Lake Johnson. Most remarkable was a Laughing Gull (1) at Lake Benson. A Common Nighthawk (1) was again seen flying over downtown Raleigh. Encouraging trends continue with the number of

Loggerhead Shrike (8)—found at Lake Benson, Mid-Pines and Prairie Ridge. Tree Swallows were again found at Lake Wheeler; 19 species of warblers were found including: Yellow (3), Chestnut-sided (1), Magnolia (2), Black-throated Blue (6), Black-throated Green (1), Black-and-white (2), American Redstart (13), and Northern Waterthrush (1). This is good diversity for so late in migration. A Kentucky Warbler was again found on territory along Swift Creek below Lake Wheeler dam. But Prothonotary, Prairie and Hooded Warblers, once common on the count, were each only represented by one individual, but even that was one better than last year! Most wheat at Mid-Pines had been harvested but a lingering flock of 25 Bobolink, mostly females, was found. Grasshopper Sparrows (2) were found near Schenck Forest, but not at Mid-Pine. Field Sparrow (3) numbers were down.

Significant misses include: Nightjars are a challenge—no Eastern Whip-poor-wills or Chuck-will's-widows were found; Northern Bobwhite and Yellow-breasted Chat were also absent.

Other notable observations:

Cliff Swallows continue nesting in Wake County along Neuse River bridges, and have colonized bridges adjacent to Anderson Point and now at Lake Wheeler.

Great Blue Heron colonies continue to thrive; a new colony is easily visible at Shelley Lake. Great Egret populations continue and nesting is now documented in the area.

A Purple Martin colony at University Club is near capacity; but this year colonies at Prairie Ridge, the NC Museum of Art and Anderson Point did not materialize.

Meadow habitat at Prairie Ridge and Anderson Point is well established; Field Sparrows have begun using both sites, and Eastern Meadowlarks are well established at PR, and Grasshopper Sparrow singing near there is a welcome observation.

Green Heron, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Wood Thrush numbers are worrisome.

John Connors

**Falls Lake: count date 25 April, 115 species, 4,367 individuals, 18 participants in 11 parties, 71.75 party-hours.**

Weather: Cloudy in the morning, partly cloudy in the afternoon, 38–68°F, wind 0–10mph.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

Participants: Herb Amyx, Pat Amyx, Brian Bockhahn, Amy Corbally, Chris Hill, Kyle Kittelberger, Dave Lenat, Kerry MacPherson, Trish MacPherson, Deborah Robertson, Louise Romanow, Jeri Smart, Whitney Sorge, Mary Spears, Deck Stapleton, Brian Strong, Bill Swallow, and Amalie Tuffin

Exclusives: none

Notes: The ninth Falls Lake Spring Bird Count was held on 25 April 2012 under mostly cloudy skies with a trace of morning rain and

temperatures ranging from 38–68°F. It was a “bronze medal” count with our third highest number of observers (18) finding our third highest total of species (115) and third highest total birds (4,367).

First records: Ruddy Duck off Rollingview and Winter Wren at Sandling Beach. Count week American Coot and Orange-crowned Warbler would also have been new to the count if found on count day.

Second records: three Blue-winged Warblers at Kittelbarger Park at the south end of the lake.

Misses: Broad-winged Hawk, fourth time we’ve missed Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Swainson’s Thrush, Magnolia Warbler (count week), and Blackpoll Warbler.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

Falls Lake Spring Counts			
Year	Total species	Total Individuals	Participants
2004	100	1897	7
2005	99	2899	7
2006	112	4083	13
2007	120	5281	19
2008	115	5209	16
2009	110	3923	19
2010	107	2856	9
2011	121	5621	10
2012	114	4367	18
Average	109	3882	13.5

Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

**Kerr Lake: count date 26 April, 120 species, 3,421 individuals, 11 participants in 8 parties, 48.25 party-hours.**

Weather: cloudy with rain in the early morning and late afternoon and cool temperatures, 55–61°F.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (birdranger248@gmail.com)

Participants: Brian Bockhahn, Paul Glass, Adam D’Onofrio, Bryce Fleming, Lori Fleming, Jerry Klingenburg, David Lenat, Fred Lobdell, Grace McCrowell, Paul Scharf, Clyde Smith and Deck Stapleton

Exclusives: Greater Scaup

Notes: The ninth Kerr Lake Spring Bird Count was held on 26 April 2012 and 12 intrepid observers tallied an amazing 120 species and 3,421 birds. With only 50 hours of counting, our lowest effort ever, that’s how good this circle is!

New to spring checklist: Blue-winged Teal at Dick Cross; Greater and Lesser Scaup above the dam; a female Hooded Merganser at Palmer Point.

Second records: a single Glossy Ibis at Dick Cross, 1 Great Egret reported both above and below the dam, probably the same bird, Wilson’s

Snipe at Dick Cross, Blackburnian and Magnolia Warbler below the dam, two parties reporting Northern Waterthrush above and below the dam.

Third records: female Bufflehead with the scaup flock; 4 Red-breasted Mergansers also above the dam; American Kestrel at Dick Cross; two parties reporting American Coot with 1 at Henderson Point and 4 at Dick Cross; and single Common Tern near Eagle Point.

Misses: A list of misses includes Rock Pigeon, Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow (weather) and Black-throated Blue Warbler. We also missed Bonaparte's Gull and Black-throated Green Warbler for the second time, and for third time we missed Great Horned Owl (weather), Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to count!

Brian Bockhahn

**Raven Rock State Park: count date 28 April, 120 species, 5,278 individuals, 15 participants in 10 parties, 75.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 54–68°F, wind northeast, 0–10 mph, water open. A.M. overcast, P.M. overcast.

Count circle center at junction of NC 210 and SR 1434.

Compiler: Erik R. Thomas (erthomas@ncsu.edu)

Participants: John Bartlett, Jim Bateson, David Brown, Stephen Buczynski, Jeffrey Davidson, Tom Howard, Paul Hubert, Bobby Lutfy, Prudence Mainor, Tim McGreal, Larry Rose, Jeannine Reece, Mitch Reece, Erik Thomas and Amber Williams

Exclusives: Golden-winged Warbler

Notes: The total of 120 species was close to our record. Unusual finds included a Golden-crowned Kinglet by Tim McGreal, a Golden-winged Warbler by Paul Hubert, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Cerulean Warbler by Jeff Davidson. Phenomenal numbers of American Redstarts and Prothonotary Warblers were achieved by having an observer, Paul Hubert, cover the Cape Fear River by canoe. Three different parties reported Mississippi Kites, which had not appeared on this count for many years.

Erik R. Thomas

**Roanoke Rapids: count date 3 May, 65 species, 607 individuals, 2 participants in 1 party, 9.00 party-hours.**

Weather: Temperature 60–85°F, wind 10 mph, dry, overcast in morning, clear in afternoon.

Compiler: Fred Lobdell (fplobdell@embarqmail.com)

Participants: Fred Lobdell and Paul Scharf

Exclusives: Cattle Egret

Notes: Swainson's Warblers were where they are usually found in spring, about a mile up the Canal Trail from one of the trailheads. While they're normally rather secretive birds, this year one hopped out on a branch in plain sight and posed for us for almost a minute. Paul got a couple of good pictures and told me, "That's the best look you'll get at a Swainson's Warbler in your lifetime."

The Cattle Egret was a male in breeding plumage in a farm field in the area known as Occoneechee Neck, and was unmistakable. The Loggerhead Shrikes were where we usually see them, at or near the intersection of the side road going to the new Roanoke Rapids airport. .

Fred Lobdell

### **Coast**

**Onslow County: count date 5 May, 152 species, 7,172 individuals, 21 participants in 11 parties, 73.75 party-hours.**

Compiler: Andy Webb (andywebb2008@live.com)

Participants: Rich Boyd, Susan Boyd, Susan Cohen, Kerri Dikun, Megan English, Wade Fuller, John Fussell, Al Gamache, Chad Garber, Buddy Garrett, Barb Gould, Gil Grant, Martin Korenek, Jim O'Donnell, Laura O'Donnell, Steve Shaffer, Mark Shields, Bruce Smithson, Kelly Tingle, Tim Trott, Andy Webb, Kelly Zivicki, Elizabeth Zivicki, Sandra Zivicki

Exclusives: American Wigeon, Northern Gannet, Brown Pelican, Least Bittern, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, Clapper Rail, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Plover, Semipalmated Plover, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, Willet, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Least Tern, Forster's Tern, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black Skimmer, Nelson's Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Painted Bunting, Boat-tailed Grackle

Notes: The 17th annual Onslow County Spring bird count was held Saturday 5 May 2012. There were 21 observers in 11 parties who tallied 7,172 individual birds (10 year avg. 7,086) and 152 species (10 year avg. 152), during 73.75 party hours in the field. There was one species located that was a first for this count.

The one bird that was new to the count was a Black-throated Green Warbler found by John Fussell in the Greater Sandy Run Training Area of Camp Lejeune. This species is not new to Onslow County, but this was the first recorded on count day. Other good finds included a Scarlet Tanager found by John Voigt in the Verona Loop Area (it has been 12 years since we have had this bird on count day), and Virginia Rail and American Wigeon located by Gil Grant and Mark Shields in the Topsail Beach area.

The most abundant species on the count was Mourning Dove (279), which is no surprise. We had many species with count highs. Some of the notable count highs were Indigo Bunting (144), Painted Bunting (24), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (14), and Broad-winged Hawk (4). Of note were the warblers: we missed only one of the expected warbler species, Blackpoll Warbler, which has been missed on the last six counts now. We also had count highs for five of the warbler species. Some notable misses were Blue-headed Vireo (for the third year now), Cattle Egret, and Red Knot.

All in all it was a great day to be birding with a great team of birders. The temperatures were higher than normal with a high temperature of 90 degrees for the day. It was mostly sunny with northerly winds sustained at about 7

miles per hour and the humidity was not too high. Late in the afternoon some showers and thunderstorms moved through the area dropping as much as 1 inch of rain in some places. Most of the birding was done by then so it didn't hamper the count results.

Andy Webb

Table 1. Summary of party hours and miles

	party-hours						feeder watch
	total	on foot	by car	by bike	boat	night	
Transylvania	61.00	10.00	51.00h			4.00	
Balsam Mtns	66.25	41.90	25.05			1.50	
Henderson	46.75	19.25	25.50				
Buncombe	64.55	22.00	42.55			1.00	7.01
Black Mtns	38.95	25.45	13.50			1.50	
Grandfather	33.00						
Hanging Rock	20.50	18.00	2.50				
Iredell	12.00	5.00	7.00				
Mecklenberg	88.75	73.75	15.00			3.50	
Forsyth	114.00	98.00	16.00			7.00	
Greensboro	100.85	77.95	22.65				
Southern Pines	80.88	33.75	47.13			8.50	10.00
Chapel Hill	124.00	97.00	17.50	1.00	8.50	3.50	9.00
Jordan Lake	156.16	122.11	21.55		12.50	2.00	
Durham	64.85	49.60	9.25		6.00	1.00	
Wake	52.50	48.00	4.50			1.00	
Falls Lake	71.75	56.75	14.50	0.50		4.50	7.00
Kerr Lake	48.25	39.25	9.00			1.00	
Raven Rock	75.00	28.75	32.25		14.00	1.00	
Roanoke Rapids	9.00	4.00	5.00				
Onslow	73.75	34.25	31.00		8.50	5.00	
total	1402.74	904.76	412.43	1.50	49.50	46.00	33.01
	party-miles						
	Total	on foot	by car	by bike	boat	Night	
Transylvania	270.00	11.00	259.00				
Balsam Mtns	125.25	41.75	83.50			5.00	
Henderson	227.20	15.20	180.50				
Buncombe	375.45	25.25	350.20				
Black Mtns	84.10	31.40	41.70			5.00	
Grandfather	38.10	12.40	25.70				
Hanging Rock	21.20	16.70	4.50				
Iredell	75.00	3.00	72.00				
Mecklenberg	337.50	37.00	300.50				
Forsyth	215.00	77.00	138.00			36.50	
Greensboro	372.65	79.65	293.00				
Southern Pines	428.25	21.55	406.70				
Chapel Hill	209.00	88.00	109.00	3.00	9.00	1.25	
Jordan Lake	251.23	80.73	158.50		12.00		
Durham	63.95	36.75	21.20		6.00		
Wake	102.00	44.00	58.00			10.00	
Falls Lake	109.80	44.50	62.80	2.50		10.50	
Kerr Lake	113.00	25.50	107.20			0.50	
Raven Rock	317.50	16.00	296.00		8.50	1.00	
Roanoke Rapids	70.00	4.00	70.00				
Onslow	371.50	20.50	342.00		9.00	16.00	
total	4177.68	731.88	3380.00	5.50	44.50	85.75	

Table 2. 2012 spring counts in North Carolina

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHl	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast
	5/6	5/19	5/12	5/13	5/26	5/11	5/13	4/29	4/28	5/5	4/28	4/29	5/12	5/6	4/29	5/12	4/25	4/26	4/28	5/3	5/5				
Canada Goose	38		96	74		7	4	24	308	185	260	153	217	203	88	164	97	120	93	30	146	2307	5	0.66	1.95
Mute Swan												4				1							5	0.00	0.01
Wood Duck	5		6	1				2	31	19	9	20	17	82	90	5	7	12	12		4	322	0.04	0.31	0.05
Gadwall									1														1	0.00	0.00
American Wigeon																					3	3	0.00	0.00	0.04
American Black Duck											15										26	42	0.00	0.02	0.35
Mallard	13		67	97		12		10	181	120	71	38	44	53	23	49	26	4	16	5	32	861	0.57	0.64	0.43
Blue-winged Teal									16	4	13				5			4			25	67	0.00	0.04	0.34
Northern Shoveler									1														1	0.00	0.00
Ring-necked Duck										2												2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Greater Scaup																		5				5	0.00	0.01	0.00
Lesser Scaup									3									4				7	0.00	0.01	0.00
Bufflehead	16								1			1						1				19	0.05	0.00	0.00
Hooded Merganser											10							1				11	0.00	0.01	0.00
Red-breasted Merganser											1	7			11			4			6				
Ruddy Duck												8				1						29	0.00	0.02	0.08
duck sp.															5				3		77	86	0.00	0.01	1.04
Northern Bobwhite																						16	0.00	0.02	0.00
Ruffed Grouse								2		2	2	6	1	4	2			4	13	2	31	69	0.00	0.04	0.42
		7	1	1	4	3																16	0.05	0.00	0.00
Wild Turkey	16	3	9	82	10	1			*	10	2	3	4	9	8		2	6	9		14	188	0.37	0.05	0.19

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdf	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mtns	pied	coast
Common Loon								1				10		1				6			2	20	0.00	0.02	0.03
Pied-billed Grebe									1			2		1	4		1	2				11	0.00	0.01	0.00
Horned Grebe												1		1	1							3	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eared Grebe												4										4	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Gannet																					1	1	0.00	0.00	0.01
Double-crested Cormorant	3											18	69	484	409	26	110	204	6	8	122	1609	0.01	1.49	1.65
Brown Pelican									1						1						58	58	0.00	0.00	0.79
American Bittern																				1	1	2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Least Bittern																					1	1	0.00	0.00	0.01
Great Blue Heron	8		3	3				7	61	17	59	16	159	200	70	53	69	33	25	2	32	817	0.04	0.77	0.43
Great Egret								14					10	1	1	6		2	1		60	95	0.00	0.04	0.81
Snowy Egret										*											6	6	0.00	0.00	0.08
Little Blue Heron								1													6	7	0.00	0.00	0.08
Tricolored Heron																					10	10	0.00	0.00	0.14
Cattle Egret																				1		1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Green Heron			2	11				2	14	15	6	8	14	8	5	1		1	6	1	9	103	0.04	0.08	0.12
Black-crowned Night-Heron									1												2	3	0.00	0.00	0.03
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron								4	7	1			10												
White Ibis																					65	22	0.00	0.02	0.00
Glossy Ibis												1						1				2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Black Vulture	28		4				2	12	55	20	26	1	83	120	29	1	28	101		7	6	523	0.10	0.48	0.08
Turkey Vulture	47	14	15	45	4	21	15	14	49	81	53	58	147	196	111	34	59	39	80	15	158	1255	0.49	0.94	2.14
Osprey	2						2	12	1		*	4	16	69	19	2	31	22	8	1	27	222	0.01	0.19	0.37
Mississippi Kite																			4		1	5	0.00	0.00	0.01
Bald Eagle	1					1			*		2	7	13	58	10	2	8	4	6		3	115	0.01	0.11	0.04



Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHl	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mnts	pied	coast
Northern Harrier								1				1	2				*					4	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1								2	1	1		1		2		2	2				12	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cooper's Hawk	3			1	1				10	5	4	2	6		1	4	5	1		1		44	0.02	0.04	0.00
Accipiter sp.													1	2					1			4	0.00	0.00	0.00
Red-shouldered Hawk	8		1	2				16	21	11	18	23	29	26	20	20	11	5	12		11	234	0.03	0.21	0.15
Broad-winged Hawk	4	5	1	4	10	7		1	*	2	8	3	2		1				2		4	54	0.09	0.02	0.05
Red-tailed Hawk	6	2	6	3	1		1	9	23	14	10	7	27	20	12	18	9	4	14	1	10	197	0.06	0.17	0.14
Clapper Rail																					8	0.00	0.00	0.11	
King Rail													4	3	1						8	0.00	0.01	0.00	
Virginia Rail										1										1	2	0.00	0.00	0.01	
Sora									1												1	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Purple Gallinule									*												0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
American Coot											5	2				1	*	5			5	21	0.01	0.01	0.07
Black-bellied Plover				2					1												130	130	0.00	0.00	1.76
Wilson's Plover																					7	7	0.00	0.00	0.09
Semipalmated Plover																					388	388	0.00	0.00	5.26
Killdeer								12	63	28	29	22	37	34	11	9	28	16	51	2	56	407	0.03	0.34	0.76
American Oystercatcher																					18	18	0.00	0.00	0.24
Black-necked Stilt																					6	6	0.00	0.00	0.08
Spotted Sandpiper	3		3	17				3	47	18	18	47	29	31	10	28	12	19	10	2	15	312	0.07	0.27	0.20
Solitary Sandpiper	4			8		5		2	62	30	23	7	4	16	14	13	1	1	6		2	198	0.05	0.18	0.03
Greater Yellowlegs									4		1	3						6	5		31	50	0.00	0.02	0.42
Willet																					45	45	0.00	0.00	0.61
Lesser Yellowlegs								10	10	2			1			2					32	57	0.00	0.03	0.43
Whimbrel																					41	41	0.00	0.00	0.56

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mtns	pied	coast	
Ruddy Turnstone																					16	16	0.00	0.00	0.22	
Sanderling																					104	104	0.00	0.00	1.41	
Semipalmated Sandpiper										*											30	30	0.00	0.00	0.41	
Least Sandpiper				1					15	34	1	3	29			7				4	10	170	274	0.00	0.10	2.31
Pectoral Sandpiper										8											1	9	0.00	0.01	0.01	
Dunlin																					76	76	0.00	0.00	1.03	
Short-billed Dowitcher																					3	3	0.00	0.00	0.04	
Wilson's Snipe									16			2						6				24	24	0.00	0.02	0.00
American Woodcock		2		1					1			1	1									6	6	0.01	0.00	0.00
Bonaparte's Gull												1		1			7	6			2	17	0.00	0.02	0.03	
Laughing Gull														1		1					198	200	0.00	0.00	2.68	
Ring-billed Gull									20		44	10		27	51		110	35			34	331	0.00	0.30	0.46	
Herring Gull								2						2							4	6	0.00	0.00	0.05	
gull sp.																					126	126	0.00	0.00	1.71	
Least Tern														3			1	12				25	26	0.00	0.02	0.00
Caspian Tern											2	1						1			11	11	0.00	0.00	0.34	
Common Tern																					25	26	0.00	0.00	0.15	
Forster's Tern																					11	50	0.00	0.00	0.68	
Royal Tern																					4	4	0.00	0.00	0.05	
Sandwich Tern																					30	30	0.00	0.00	0.41	
Black Skimmer																					48	513	0.42	0.42	0.65	
Rock Pigeon	4		5	33				1	120	59	70	4	25	31	43	48	5		17							
Eurasian Collared-Dove								2	2										3		2	11	0.01	0.01	0.03	
Mourning Dove	85	11	91	148	4	14	5	49	197	156	167	386	238	279	96	82	64	90	314	35	279	2790	2.16	2.16	3.78	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1		2	1			2		1	6		4	13	15	20	1		2	4		25	97	0.02	0.07	0.34	

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast
Black-billed Cuckoo		1							1													2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eastern Screech-Owl	1									1		3	1	2	1		1		2	1	3	16	0.00	0.01	0.04
Great Horned Owl	1							1		5		3	1			1	3					15	0.00	0.01	0.00
Barred Owl	3	3	1	1	2	1		2	5	9	2	1	16	10	8	2	4	3	4			77	0.03	0.07	0.00
Northern Saw-whet Owl		2		1	1																	4	0.01	0.00	0.00
Common Nighthawk										*		25				1					4	30	0.00	0.03	0.05
Chuck-will's-widow									1	3		43					7		15		31	100	0.00	0.07	0.42
Eastern Whip-poor-will	5		2							1		6	8	3			5		3		6	39	0.02	0.03	0.08
Chimney Swift	30	17	35	125	12	22	8	10	217	200	52	142	116	135	64	121	50	2	70		36	1464	0.75	1.18	0.49
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	19	3	3	8	3	5	1	5	13	16	9	13	43	23	18	16	6	4	8		4	220	0.13	0.17	0.05
Rufous Hummingbird												1										1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Belted Kingfisher	3		3	9		2		3	15	7	10	9	7	10	8	11	7	4	9	3		120	0.05	0.10	0.00
Red-headed Woodpecker								6	8		8	29	30	52	20	4	22	11	8	2	19	219	0.00	0.20	0.26
Red-bellied Woodpecker	30	2	21	29		1	3	19	111	104	97	101	184	182	71	66	60	30	62	6	47	1226	0.26	1.10	0.64
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	6									1	1	1		*				1			11	0.02	0.00	0.00
Downy Woodpecker	12	5	9	11	4	2	6	5	65	37	28	24	97	53	35	40	23	8	23	14		501	0.15	0.44	0.19
Hairy Woodpecker	2	12	4	3	5	6	3		13	4	8	6	12	16	5	3	7	3	5	2		119	0.11	0.08	0.03
Red-cockaded Woodpecker												5									14	19	0.00	0.01	0.19
Northern Flicker	9	2	4	15			2	1	3	16	23	33	19	29	11	7	13	6	2	3		198	0.10	0.16	0.04
Pileated Woodpecker	33	10	10	21	5	6	5	5	2	4	6	33	28	34	13	8	14	10	21	3	15	286	0.27	0.18	0.20
American Kestrel			1					1	4	1	3	8		1	3	2		1				25	0.00	0.02	0.00
Peregrine Falcon						1					1											2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	17	8	16	8	1	2	1	9	18	4	22	41	79	14	8	7	1	5		67	332	0.17	0.21	0.91

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHI	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast
Acadian Flycatcher	8	2	13	2	12		2	1	5	4	1	28	76	42	9	33	4	7	5		18	272	0.12	0.22	0.24
Alder Flycatcher		29			3																	32	0.10	0.00	0.00
Willow Flycatcher	1		3						*	3												7	0.01	0.00	0.00
Least Flycatcher		22	2		4																	28	0.08	0.00	0.00
Eastern Phoebe	37	4	30	34	9	6	13	16	70	49	23	27	47	59	32	31	26	11	34			558	0.40	0.43	0.00
Great Crested Flycatcher	8	1	7	4			7	9	53	29	28	189	98	174	58	44	45	36	108	1	167	1066	0.08	0.87	2.26
Eastern Kingbird	3	7	7	3			1	27	47	35	28	132	24	84	38	34	26	36	75	12	40	652	0.04	0.60	0.54
Loggerhead Shrike								1	1			22		2		8				2		58	0.00	0.06	0.00
White-eyed Vireo	6		45	3			1	1	29	8	2	72	33	51	69	11	26	30	38	6	75	506	0.17	0.38	1.02
Yellow-throated Vireo		1		3					5	2	*	19	13	23	12	6	7	9	10		21	131	0.01	0.11	0.28
Blue-headed Vireo	41	100	14	57	82	26	3	2	1	*		6	4	7	4	2	11	3	2			365	0.98	0.04	0.00
Warbling Vireo									2	2												4	0.00	0.00	0.00
Red-eyed Vireo	121	90	96	136	37	23	111	13	105	75	79	64	205	204	159	63	89	78	110	4	30	1892	1.85	1.25	0.41
Vireo sp.				7																		7	0.02	0.00	0.00
Blue Jay	60	29	86	49	8	16	14	20	67	111	118	136	166	160	82	47	69	36	70	6	64	1414	0.79	1.09	0.87
American Crow	302	48	200	176	12	43	25	70	105	219	247	250	308	358	130	101	175	104	196	25	128	3222	2.44	2.29	1.74
Fish Crow							9	92	41	19	40	54	57	25	56	27	29	16	3	25		493	0.00	0.47	0.34
Common Raven		15		5	8	13	2		2	9												54	0.13	0.01	0.00
Crow sp.										8				3					28		9	48	0.00	0.04	0.12
Horned Lark									2			5							16			23	0.00	0.02	0.00
Purple Martin	19		20	14			1	33	6	45	523	152	59	71	32	23	10	13	57	16	223	1317	0.16	1.04	3.02
Tree Swallow	66		66	70	1	18			6	27	189	2	13	14	11	2	73	11		2	5	576	0.67	0.35	0.07
Northern Rough-winged Swallow																									
Bank Swallow	33		36	36	4	2	1	17	79	61	95	52	61	155	17	50	65	68	42	2	22	898	0.34	0.77	0.30
Cliff Swallow									*	1		21		3	1				22			48	0.00	0.05	0.00
			23					8	205	3			2	173	17	10	51	4		12	20	528	0.07	0.49	0.27

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfrr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPl	ChHl	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mtns	pied	coast
Barn Swallow	242	1	60	127		9	2	69	96	223	169	106	49	216	78	64	98	65	123	30	211	2038	1.33	1.39	2.86
swallow sp.										150												150	0.00	0.15	0.00
Carolina Chickadee	92	20	117	94	12	18	25	20	257	151	124	135	314	250	154	135	134	53	100	2	42	2249	1.14	1.83	0.57
Black-capped Chickadee		14																				14	0.04	0.00	0.00
chickadee sp.		11																				11	0.03	0.00	0.00
Tufted Titmouse	95	17	90	92	15	19	35	19	151	167	132	159	429	361	216	118	143	86	125	6	79	2554	1.10	2.12	1.07
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	29		9	43	20																102	0.31	0.00	0.00
White-breasted Nuthatch	17	7	12	7	2	7	2	10	11	35	29	30	62	21	9	23	18	9	6	1	6	324	0.16	0.26	0.08
Brown-headed Nuthatch								8	50	30	21	82	92	114	54	45	41	24	22	1	82	667	0.00	0.59	1.14
Brown Creeper		15		4	15	5																39	0.12	0.00	0.00
House Wren	24	1	8	5	3	3		1	15	25	10	3	33	7	3	2	1			1	1	142	0.12	0.10	0.01
Winter Wren	3	25		6	31	23					*						1					89	0.27	0.00	0.00
Sedge Wren									2						1							3	0.00	0.00	0.00
Marsh Wren											*											0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carolina Wren	60	3	85	84		4	12	18	221	159	155	132	442	285	155	125	107	57	141	1	117	2363	0.75	2.00	1.59
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	28		21	16			8	11	136	83	42	99	220	197	254	74	81	44	51	1	133	1499	0.22	1.30	1.80
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	85		10	88	78					1								1			268	0.80	0.00	0.00
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			1					1	4		12	1			5	4			1			29	0.00	0.03	0.00
Eastern Bluebird	72	3	78	52		2	13	85	108	138	164	227	202	236	112	87	100	92	173	12	52	2008	0.66	1.74	0.71
Veery		130	3	12	73	25			1	5		1	1		1							252	0.73	0.01	0.00
Gray-cheeked Thrush										2		3										5	0.00	0.01	0.00
Swinson's Thrush				1	2		3	1	3	19	1	1	9	1	4	3						48	0.02	0.04	0.00
Hermit Thrush		8	2	6	20	3			1		1			6		4						51	0.12	0.01	0.00

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHl	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast
Wood Thrush	18	13	16	23	6	5	2	14	27	47	23	14	37	49	16	5	19	23	7		9	373	0.25	0.28	0.12
American Robin	98	115	189	269	36	63	6	101	455	428	438	104	333	153	103	108	75	30	169	35	28	3336	2.34	2.54	0.38
Gray Catbird	37	72	18	32	11	28	1	9	78	58	74	114	80	17	59	18	16	5	30	1	24	782	0.60	0.56	0.33
Northern Mockingbird	46		91	68			3	80	188	101	178	201	179	210	93	46	44	51	184	30	129	1922	0.63	1.59	1.75
Brown Thrasher	58	5	44	13	2	1		17	88	44	45	68	59	66	38	30	22	15	42	5	37	699	0.37	0.54	0.50
European Starling	142		236	454		44	3	63	430	222	446	111	211	125	124	191	41	116	305	100	181	3545	2.66	2.49	2.45
American Pipit									1	*					6							7	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cedar Waxwing	137	107	218	516	10	10	21	73	1317	1526	342	241	159	409	29	238	66	2	61		8	5490	3.08	4.47	0.11
Ovenbird	54	66	33	65	68	19	12	8	13	8	40	93	155	53	16	53	39	25	32		32	852	0.96	0.50	0.43
Worm-eating Warbler	4	1	3	10	7	1	8	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1		1		2		8	55	0.10	0.01	0.11
Louisiana Waterthrush	14		4		1	1	6		1	2	3	4	20	14	4	2	6	3	22		2	109	0.08	0.08	0.03
Northern Waterthrush			1						7	7	7		10	3	20	1	3	2	2			63	0.00	0.06	0.00
Golden-winged Warbler																			1		1	1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Blue-winged Warbler									*		*				1		3					4	0.00	0.00	0.00
Black-and-white Warbler	19	38	4	49	27	11	34		10	2	11	66	17	31	36	2	8	5	13		10	393	0.55	0.20	0.14
Prothonotary Warbler							1	1	2	3	5	4	32	54	23	1	6	24	50	2	50	258	0.00	0.21	0.68
Swainson's Warbler	5		1				1					3						3	3	2	3	18	0.02	0.01	0.04
Tennessee Warbler							1			1												2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orange-crowned Warbler																	*					0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kentucky Warbler			1	1					*			1	4		3	1	1		4		5	21	0.01	0.01	0.07
Common Yellowthroat	18	61	29	10	1	5		7	32	56	35	57	117	86	64	48	33	26	38	1	56	780	0.37	0.60	0.76
Hooded Warbler	63	26	21	64	1	3	22		5	2	2	41	31	53	13	1	22	13	13		14	410	0.60	0.20	0.19
American Redstart	9	1	18	24			6	4	8	20	3	10	56	57	17	13	2	1	81		1	331	0.18	0.27	0.01
Cape May Warbler	6					1	1		2	2	1											13	0.02	0.01	0.00

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHl	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast	
Cerulean Warbler	61	26	11	7	13			2	2	66	42	27	46	71	99	57	34	23	10	46	1		14	0.04	0.00	0.00
Northern Parula				1	1				*	3	*	1	2		1	2	*	1			47	684	0.34	0.52	0.64	
Magnolia Warbler		1																				16	0.02	0.01	0.00	
Bay-breasted Warbler																						1	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Blackburnian Warbler	9	30	2	50	45	5			3		*	3	*		1		*	1				149	0.43	0.01	0.00	
Yellow Warbler	6		1	16		2		2	24	8	5	9	6	8	11	3	6	2	1	1	1	111	0.08	0.09	0.01	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	19	303	14	28	58	20	1	2	5	7	1		1	2		1						462	1.34	0.02	0.00	
Blackpoll Warbler		1	4	22		2	1	1	*	15	*		5	4		12						67	0.09	0.04	0.00	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	21	137	9	66	85	44		1	39	49	14	46	15	43	19	6	7		11		3	615	1.09	0.25	0.04	
Palm Warbler	9							1	9		4	1	1		1		1	3				30	0.03	0.02	0.00	
Pine Warbler	3			2			24	9	47	30	42	105	142	248	83	67	95	31	54	1	122	1105	0.09	0.96	1.65	
Yellow-rumped Warbler																										
Yellow-throated Warbler		2	1			2		22	256	31	146	100			11	189	215	316	84	1	1	1376	0.02	1.37	0.01	
Prairie Warbler	12	2	3	2				1	1			32	20	85	28	13	26	21	23		62	331	0.06	0.25	0.84	
Black-throated Green Warbler							1	3	7	12	4	62	24	76	32	1	15	17	29		121	404	0.00	0.28	1.64	
Canada Warbler	14	135	11	31	159	12	25		9	2	3	2	1	2	3	1	5		4	1	1	420	1.17	0.03	0.01	
Wilson's Warbler	4	131	5	50	66	43			1		1	*	*								301	0.90	0.00	0.00		
Yellow-breasted Chat	1																					1	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Eastern Towhee	11	1	10					11	8	12	6	27	33	49	36		4	16	17	4	46	291	0.07	0.22	0.62	
Bachman's Sparrow	145	284	209	169	72	50	10	12	176	140	115	98	175	130	80	67	69	25	26	1	107	2160	2.84	1.12	1.45	
Chipping Sparrow												4									11	15	0.00	0.00	0.15	
Field Sparrow	36	3	20	56	3	2	10	20	91	64	55	216	212	282	122	46	137	129	145	10	36	1695	0.39	1.53	0.49	
Vesper Sparrow	13	7	60	14			2	4	36	20	13	12	16	40	13	3	13	17	17	1		301	0.29	0.21	0.00	
Lark Sparrow												2			1							1	0.00	0.00	0.00	
																						2	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHi	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast
Savannah Sparrow			3					1	13	3		13		1	17		11	9	8		1	80	0.01	0.08	0.01
Grasshopper Sparrow			2					18	6	7	4	10	3		5	2		3			10	60	0.01	0.06	0.00
Nelson's Sparrow																						10	0.00	0.00	0.14
Saltmarsh Sparrow																					1	1	0.00	0.00	0.01
Seaside Sparrow																					3	3	0.00	0.00	0.04
Song Sparrow	194	14	256	201	16	32		5	49	38	57	10	56	2	6	9	5	1	1			952	2.15	0.24	0.00
Lincoln's Sparrow									1						1							2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swamp Sparrow								6	6	1		1	1		14		9	15	2			49	0.00	0.05	0.00
White-throated Sparrow								3	99	13	64	38	1	3	51		108	50	19	4		458	0.02	0.45	0.00
White-crowned Sparrow	2		3						18	1								1				20	0.00	0.02	0.00
Dark-eyed Junco	8	329	8	71	232	128							*						1			777	2.34	0.00	0.00
Summer Tanager	2							1	8	11	4	46	88	183	33	30	36	26	31	1	97	597	0.01	0.50	1.32
Scarlet Tanager	29	53	14	34	10	16	11	10	10	21	8	6	32	52	17	3	16	10	5		1	358	0.50	0.19	0.01
Northern Cardinal	149	2	197	172	1	18	12	85	419	390	320	278	590	466	245	203	230	85	198	12	251	4323	1.66	3.53	3.40
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	49	8	26	4	17		1	7	7	3	6	4	6	4		6		2			153	0.32	0.05	0.00
Blue Grosbeak	6		4	1			1	5	30	23	9	70	33	96	32	26	9	21	59	3	68	496	0.04	0.42	0.92
Indigo Bunting	119	117	103	119	91	7	10	34	57	130	41	85	177	173	121	33	24	30	63	8	144	1686	1.71	0.98	1.95
Painted Bunting																					24	24	0.00	0.00	0.33
Bobolink	26		17					210	1	3	3	1		78	130	25			146		1	641	0.13	0.60	0.01
Red-winged Blackbird	117		179	108		4		30	123	98	70	106	73	73	80	51	169	66	90		99	1536	1.23	1.03	1.34
Eastern Meadowlark	20		9	7				40	16	21	14	93	13	34	31	20	13	21	79	12	32	475	0.11	0.41	0.43
Rusty Blackbird	2																					2	0.01	0.00	0.00
Common Grackle	85		138	65		9	8	42	308	314	283	164	194	240	145	98	59	157	258	60	240	2867	0.92	2.33	3.25
Boat-tailed Grackle																					65	65	0.00	0.00	0.88



Species	Trans	Bals	Hend	Bunc	Bl Mts	Grdfr	Hang	Ired	Meck	Fors	Grbr	SoPi	ChHl	Jord	Durh	Wake	Falls	Kerr	RaRo	RoRa	Onsl	total	mntns	pied	coast
Brown-headed Cowbird	22	1	33	7	1	7	18	160	66	163	80	165	199	124	43	63	67	91	12	58	1380	0.21	1.25	0.79	
blackbird sp.													2								2	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Orchard Oriole	3		2	4			8	19	13	9	33	21	66	22	12	15	24	28	3	52	334	0.03	0.27	0.71	
Baltimore Oriole	3		2	9			5	9	11	3			1	1			1				45	0.04	0.03	0.00	
House Finch	27		29	30		1	16	253	98	79	47	196	76	42	67	38	21	52	5	25	1102	0.26	0.99	0.34	
Red Crossbill		4			7	3															14	0.04	0.00	0.00	
Pine Siskin	8	9			9	24															50	0.15	0.00	0.00	
American Goldfinch	134	9	51	195	4	33	1	28	131	141	227	88	263	195	116	95	140	68	18	2	3	1942	1.29	1.52	0.04
House Sparrow	44		12	7		6		5	54	25	35	28	48	22	17	16	23	23	58	10	26	459	0.21	0.36	0.35
total species	111	79	107	107	65	78	66	100	145	127	124	143	122	120	132	109	115	120	120	65	152	236			
total individuals	3888	2989	3904	5082	1595	1157	594	1718	8836	7670	7143	6649	8997	10471	5835	3776	4367	3421	5278	607	7172	101149	58.03	74.92	97.25
# participants	31	24	14	23	13	12	15	9	27	54	28	25	39	55	24	31	18	12	15	2	21	492			

Column key for Table 2:

Trans	Transylvania County	Meck	Mecklenburg County	Falls	Falls Lake
Bals	Balsam Mountains	Fors	Forsyth County	Kerr	Kerr Lake
Hend	Henderson County	Grbr	Greensboro	RaRo	Raven Rock
Bunc	Buncombe County	SoPi	Southern Pines	RoRa	Roanoke Rapids
Bl Mt	Black Mountains	ChHl	Chapel Hill	Onsl	Onslow County
Grdfr	Grandfather Mountain	Jord	Jordan Lake	mntns	mountains
Hang	Hanging Rock	Durh	Durham	pied	piedmont
Ired	Iredell County	Wake	Wake County	coast	coast

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## 2012 Spring Bird Counts in South Carolina

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### Lois Stacey

418 Deepwood Pl., North Augusta, SC, 29841

*croakie@comcast.net*

The South Carolina spring migration counts yielded some nice totals and unusual birds this year, with a total count of 221 species. Seven Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were recorded—five of them inland at Aiken County where this species seems to be settled and increasing. Overall 11 species of ducks were recorded statewide including Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck and Common Merganser. 28 species of warblers were counted throughout the state, as were seven species of flycatchers. Both American and Least Bitterns were still in the state as well. A Purple Gallinule at Charleston was a great find.

Counts were held in 8 counties this spring, and 166 birders participated.

### Compiler's Comments

#### Aiken

Coordinator: Anne Waters

1621 Apple Valley Drive, Augusta, GA 30906

Participants: Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Judy Gregory, Paul Koehler, Debbie LaBerge, Lois Stacey, Mark Vukovich, Alice Walker, Douglas Walker, Anne Waters, Eugene Zielinski, Calvin Zippler

No compiler's comments.

#### Spartanburg

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell

126 Greengate Lane, Spartanburg, SC 29307

Participants: Doug Allen, Carole Anderson, Susan Bennett, Tim Brown, Dan Bryant, Lewanna Caldwell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Alan Chalmers, Dan Codispoti, John Edmunds, Judy Edmunds, Ed Elam, Kathleen Elam, Roy Fowler, Pat Fowler, Onoosh Gahagan, Ron Gahagan, Sally Hitchmough, Frank Hull, Phyllis Hull, Jack Jennings, Herb Kay, Jeanette Keepers, Barry Long, Megan McCartney, Moss Miller, Nora Moore, Bill Myers, Mary Ann Myers, Glen Peterson, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt, Doug Rayner, Bob Scott, Leslie Scott, Ann Marie Sullivan, Kristen Taylor, Gerald Thurmond, Dan Wootton, Nancy Wootton

Spartanburg County presently has at least two active eagle nests. We had 14 warbler species, and a very good count of 27 Northern Bobwhite. Two field parties located Horned Lark. We found lingering Red-breasted

Nuthatch, and a high number of 940 Cliff Swallows, the majority nesting under the bridges of Lake Blalock.

### **Cherokee**

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell  
126 Greengate Lane, Spartanburg, SC 29307  
Participants: Claude Cobb, Karla Lavender, J. B. Hines, Maxi Nix  
Kestrel and Horned Lark were our best birds.

### **Lexington**

Coordinator: Patricia Voelker  
208 Garden Arbor Dr. Lexington, SC 29072  
Participants: Lewis Burke, Jessica Porter, Patricia Voelker  
No compiler's comments.

### **Congaree**

Coordinator: John Grego  
Participants: Steve Dennis, John Grego, Jamie Howard, Laura McCormick, Kathleen O'Grady, Donna Slyce, Travis Vaughn, 25 Dawn Chorus participants

On May 6, Congaree National Park and Friends of Congaree Swamp sponsored a Dawn Chorus led by Donna Slyce on International Dawn Chorus Day. The Dawn Chorus event was supplemented by a morning hike to Buckhead Island in the park's eastern end, along with a couple short trips to upland sites. Few migrants were found and some species were missed due to lack of coverage. Highlights included a good variety of wading birds at the slough on Buckhead Island, a good count of Swainson's Warbler at Buckhead Island, breeding Louisiana Waterthrush at Bannister Bridge, Green Heron near the Longleaf Campground, and a Black-throated Green Warbler heard during Dawn Chorus.

### **Greenville**

Coordinator: J. B. Hines  
5258 Chesnee Hwy Chesnee, SC 29323  
Participants: Jerry Johnson, Brad Dalton, Harold Carter, Donnie Coody, Shelby Birch, Jane Kramer, Matt Johnson, Rhonda Dodson, Len Kopka, Chip Gilbert, Sara Gilbert, Pamela, Derek Aldrich, Dorothy Graves, Glennis Graves, Doug Allen, Judy Webb, Charles Webb

Greenville County's 2012 Spring Migration Count was held on Saturday, April 28. Weather conditions were ideal with a low of 61°F and high of 68°F under mostly clear skies and light wind. Participation was good with 10 parties and 18 participants in the field. We did not have any stationary (hawk watch) or feeder watchers this year.

The club found 129 species (new record) and 4509 individuals. I think the record high count was due primarily to timing since the peak of spring migration in upstate SC occurs around the last five days in April through the

first five days in May. Other factors can impact the count totals as well (i.e. weather, number of participants, etc.).

The Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned again this year in time for the spring count. Other notable birds were American Bittern (1), Wilson's Snipe (1, new for count), Blue-winged Warbler (1), Orange-crowned Warbler (1, new for count, and unusual in spring), Swainson's Warbler (4, all on Blue Wall Trail), Blackburnian Warbler (2, new for count) and White-crowned Sparrow (5, somewhat late).

### **Charleston**

Coordinator: Andy Harrison

35 Cross Creek Drive, Apt P-7, Charleston, SC 29412

Participants: Ann Ashby, Clint Ball, Kennedy Ball, Matt Bruce, Trey Bruce, Sallie Campbell, Cornelia Carrier, Allan Cartwright, George Cromartie, Jim Cubie, Doreen Cubie, Hal Currey, Chris Davies, Bob Drew, Connie Drew, Judy Fairchild, Ted Fairchild, Cindy Floyd, Aaron Given, Andy Harrison, Richard Hayes, Starr Hazard, Nedra Hecker, Don Jones, Lois Jones, Mary Kennerty, Tom Lannen, Pete Laurie, Mary-Catherine Martin, Keith McCullough, David McLean, Jr., Cathy Miller, Ann Shahid, Chris Snook, Bill Sullivan, Mary Kay Sullivan, Joel Thompson, Ann Truesdale, Jen Tyrrell, Julie Vann, Zach Vann, Craig Watson, John Weinstein, Lori Sheridan Wilson, Carl Miller, Paul Nolan, Perry Nugent, Melinda Nutter, Patty Pascal, Allen Russell, Peggy Schachte

The 2012 Charleston Spring Bird Count was held on May 6, 2012. There were 51 participants divided into 17 parties, who tallied 103.1 hours in the field. Conditions throughout the day were warm and fairly pleasant, ranging from partly cloudy in the morning to mostly cloudy in the afternoon with a few very brief showers. We observed 157 total species and 13,427 individuals (for a bird/party hour average of 130.2).

These species and individual totals far surpassed our results in 2011 (141 and 9334, respectively), as well as the 2006–11 six-year averages (145.8 and 8116.7). For the fourth year in a row Dewees Island was the area with the highest species total (92), although the Intracoastal Waterway party observed more individuals than any other (3137). However, a number of areas reported above-average results, and every area had at least one species exclusive. Some of the highlights of this year's count included the following:

On Bulls Island, the South Bulls party (leader David McLean and Starr Hazard) reported 2 Least Bitterns (3 and 1 also reported from North Bulls and Dewees Island, respectively), 4 Black Terns, 1 Swallow-tailed Kite (one of four observed on the count) and 2 Common Nighthawks (3 also seen on Dewees Island). Mary-Catherine Martin birded solo in the North Bulls area, and she observed 64 Mottled Ducks (25 also reported from South Bulls and 7 on Dewees Island), 2 Soras, 8 White-rumped Sandpipers, 1 Savannah Sparrow, and 12 Bobolinks. The Capers Island party (leader Hal Currey,

Chris Davies, Richard Hayes, and Margaret Schachte) reported 1 Horned Grebe in breeding plumage, 1 Bufflehead, 1 Marbled Godwit (1 also reported by the Sewee Road party), 30 Red Knots, 1 Cliff Swallow, and 1 Seaside Sparrow.

In Cainhoy, Andy Harrison and his party (George Cromartie and Ann Truesdale) observed 3 Pied-billed Grebes, 1 Northern Bobwhite, 2 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (1 also reported in I'on Swamp), 3 Yellow-breasted Chats, and 6 Bachman's Sparrows (4 also reported in I'on Swamp). The Sewee Road party (leader Jen Tyrrell, Cornelia Carrier, and Jim and Doreen Cubie) reported 31 Wood Storks (27 others reported from various areas), 1 Swallow-tailed Kite, 1 Merlin, 1 Peregrine Falcon (1 also observed by the Intracoastal Waterway party), and 1 Purple Gallinule. In the pre-dawn hours, Perry Nugent and his group in I'on Swamp (Allen Russell and Joel Thompson) recorded 5 Eastern Screech Owls, 15 Barred Owls and 10 Chuck-will's-widows (4 also reported on Dewees Island). During the regular count they observed 2 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 43 Wild Turkeys (3 adults and 40 young; 2 turkeys each were also reported in the Sewee Road and Guerins Bridge Road areas), 2 Yellow-throated Vireos, 2 Worm-eating Warblers, 1 Swainson's Warbler, and 20 Kentucky Warblers (1 also heard in Cainhoy). Craig Watson and the Porchers Bluff party (Allan Cartwright, Nedra Hecker and Patty Pascal) reported 5 Common Terns (2 each also observed on Capers and on Dewees Island), 2 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (1 each also observed in Cainhoy and on Dewees Island), 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, and 2 well-described Nelson's Sparrows.

The Guerins Bridge Road party (leader Don Jones, Matt Bruce, Lois Jones, Mary Kennerty and Tom Lannen) observed 6 Solitary Sandpipers (1 and 2 also reported from South and North Bulls, respectively), 6 Loggerhead Shrikes, and 1 Chipping Sparrow. In the Airport area, Paul Nolan and his group (Ann Ashby and John Weinstein) reported 6 Mallards, 4 Killdeer (1 also observed on Dewees Island), and 1 American Robin. On the Intracoastal Waterway, Clint Ball and his party (Kennedy Ball, Trey Bruce and Keith McCullough) observed 3 adult Bald Eagles (2 adults and 1 immature bird also reported on Dewees Island), 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Piping Plover (1 also observed on Dewees Island), 59 American Oystercatchers (20 others reported from various areas), and 1 Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

Last but certainly not least, Dewees Island (leader Cathy Miller, Sallie Campbell, Bob and Connie Drew, Judy and Ted Fairchild, Cindy Floyd, Aaron Given, Pete Laurie, Carl Miller, Melinda Nutter, Ann Shahid, Chris Snook, Bill and Mary Kay Sullivan, Julie and Zach Vann, and Lori Sheridan Wilson) was the site of the most unusual observation of the count. Early in the morning Chris Snook observed a flyover Common Merganser near the south end of Dewees. Common Mergansers are rare winter visitors to the coastal plain of the Carolinas and are seldom reported here after March. However, Chris provided good details on the sighting and convincing responses to follow-up questions. Common Mergansers have previously been reported on at least one Charleston Spring Count (two were recorded in

1993—single individuals in the Guerins Bridge Road and I'on Swamp areas). In addition to the Common Merganser, Cathy and her field parties recorded 2 Swallow-tailed Kites, 10 Wilson's Plovers (1 and 3 also reported from Capers and South Bulls, respectively), 4 Common Ground-Doves, 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, and 2 American Redstarts.

Our excellent results this year can probably be attributed to a number of factors, including more eyes in the field (51 is the highest number of participants on a Spring Count since I started compiling in 2006), favorable migration conditions across the Southeast during the period (as reported on the eBird website, <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/bcr20120511>), and good local conditions for observing shorebirds. (For example, on Capers Island the impoundment water levels had been lowered by SC DNR.) In fact we observed above-average numbers for many seabird and shorebird species: e.g., 319 Royal Terns (six-year average of 210.5), 259 Sandwich Terns (31.3), 378 Forster's Terns (77.5), 527 Black-bellied Plovers (91.8), 2345 Semipalmated Plovers (436.5), 176 Willets (62), 235 Spotted Sandpipers (56.8), 193 Ruddy Turnstones (25.7), 172 Least Sandpipers (34.5), and 1265 Short-billed Dowitchers (132.2). No clear trends were apparent for individual totals in most other groups. Among the swallows, for example, we observed 108 Purple Martins (32.8) but only 1 Northern Rough-winged Swallow (41.3). Species that were observed this year but had not been recorded during the 2006–11 Spring Counts included: Common Merganser, Purple Gallinule, Cliff Swallow, and Nelson's Sparrow. We continued to see good numbers of Mississippi Kites (19 total observed by 6 parties) and Painted Buntings (77 total observed by 10 parties). Notable misses this year included: King Rail, Caspian Tern, Great Horned Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Eastern Meadowlark, and House Sparrow.

### **Jasper**

Coordinator: Steve Wagner

313 E. 54th St. Savannah, GA 31405

Participants: Dot Bambach, Steve Calver, Matt Ryan, Steve Wagner,  
Steve Willis

No compiler comments.

	Aiken	Spart	Cherok	Lexing	Congar	Greenv	Charlest	Jasper	Total
Black-bellied Whistling-									
Duck	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Canada Goose	49	437	48	0	0	77	21	0	632
Wood Duck	12	5	1	0	2	24	37	4	85
Mallard	7	91	0	4	0	50	6	11	169
Mottled Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	158	254
Blue-winged Teal	0	3	0	0	0	5	76	9	93
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lesser Scaup	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	6
Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Red-breasted									
Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	5	17
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Northern Bobwhite	19	27	5	0	0	2	1	1	55
Wild Turkey	40	12	3	0	0	6	47	1	109
Common Loon	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pied-billed Grebe	0	2	0	0	0	2	3	0	7
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Wood Stork	1	0	0	0	0	0	58	17	76
Double-crested									
Cormorant	1	6	1	0	0	4	99	17	128
Anhinga	5	0	0	0	0	0	22	41	68
Brown Pelican	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	8	137
American Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Least Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	11
Great Blue Heron	7	30	2	2	1	23	41	10	116
Great Egret	50	0	0	0	6	0	221	148	425
Snowy Egret	0	0	0	0	2	0	204	40	246
Little Blue Heron	13	0	0	0	1	0	20	12	46
Tricolored Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	7	69
Cattle Egret	53	0	0	0	0	0	35	4	92
Green Heron	5	4	0	0	1	2	51	20	83
Black-crowned Night-									
Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	20
Yellow-crowned Night-									
Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
White Ibis	3	0	0	0	10	0	5	107	125
Glossy Ibis	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	16
Roseate Spoonbill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Black Vulture	44	17	10	0	1	4	46	13	135
Turkey Vulture	32	74	5	1	3	37	115	21	288
Osprey	0	1	6	0	0	3	33	2	45
Swallow-tailed Kite	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Mississippi Kite	34	0	0	0	1	0	19	5	59
Bald Eagle	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	3	12
Northern Harrier	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Cooper's Hawk	0	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	9
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	5	0	3	5	6	18	0	46
Broad-winged Hawk	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
Red-tailed Hawk	11	19	3	0	1	26	6	2	68
Clapper Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	1	41
King Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sora	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Purple Gallinule	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	6
Common Gallinule	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	23	36
American Coot	0	6	0	0	0	3	7	2	18
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	527	3	530
Wilson's Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	9	23

	Aiken	Spart	Cherok	Lexing	Congar	Greenv	Charlest	Jasper	Total
Semipalmated Plover	1	0	0	0	0	0	2345	198	2544
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Killdeer	6	20	19	1	0	12	5	29	92
American Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	0	79
Black-necked Stilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	99	156
American Avocet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	44
Spotted Sandpiper	8	7	8	0	0	8	235	4	270
Solitary Sandpiper	7	0	3	0	0	13	0	5	28
Greater Yellowlegs	0	2	0	0	0	0	74	17	93
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	0	176	40	216
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	1	1	0	0	0	56	28	86
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	256	3	259
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	193	0	193
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	30
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	0	91
Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	3046	3131
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	11	16	0	0	0	0	172	77	276
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	15	23
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	301	52	353
Stilt Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89	89
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	1265	18	1283
Wilson's Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bonaparte's Gull	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	640	3	643
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	31
Herring Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Least Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	444	479
Gull-billed Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	208	225
Caspian Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Black Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Common Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
Forster's Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	378	1	379
Royal Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	319	21	340
Sandwich Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	259	0	259
Black Skimmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	280	277	557
Rock Pigeon	6	102	9	0	0	39	11	32	199
Eurasian Collared- Dove	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Mourning Dove	120	206	67	9	5	199	103	109	818
Common Ground-Dove	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	9	13
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	26	7	0	3	16	3	21	1	77
Barn Owl	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	0	2	0	0	1	5	1	12
Great Horned Owl	5	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	9
Barred Owl	4	5	0	0	7	2	15	1	34
Common Nighthawk	1	10	0	0	0	0	5	15	31
Chuck-will's-widow	8	6	2	0	0	5	14	6	41
Eastern Whip-poor-will	1	6	2	0	1	6	0	0	16
Chimney Swift	28	72	24	0	9	60	10	37	240
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	11	21	0	0	12	12	4	4	64
Belted Kingfisher	1	11	1	0	1	5	3	0	22
Red-headed Woodpecker	31	6	1	0	3	3	14	4	62
Red-bellied Woodpecker	67	27	19	10	21	45	63	8	260
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Downy Woodpecker	23	19	1	1	7	27	16	2	96
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	9



	Aiken	Spart	Cherok	Lexing	Congar	Greenv	Charlest	Jasper	Total
Red-cockaded									
Woodpecker	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
Northern Flicker	1	8	1	0	0	4	4	0	18
Pileated Woodpecker	23	6	3	0	16	16	12	4	80
American Kestrel	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	35	6	3	0	7	2	11	5	69
Acadian Flycatcher	24	12	4	1	20	11	16	7	95
Willow Flycatcher	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Eastern Phoebe	0	38	6	4	0	30	0	0	78
Great Crested									
Flycatcher	63	17	16	6	13	22	211	11	359
Eastern Kingbird	70	38	9	2	0	59	51	9	238
Scissor-tailed									
Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Loggerhead Shrike	7	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	14
White-eyed Vireo	105	4	0	13	25	14	34	7	202
Yellow-throated Vireo	3	2	0	1	2	3	2	4	17
Blue-headed Vireo	0	1	0	4	1	14	0	0	20
Red-eyed Vireo	60	37	13	6	29	85	108	9	347
Blue Jay	78	85	20	2	2	78	51	7	323
American Crow	111	0	83	3	12	146	72	15	442
Fish Crow	19	154	0	0	7	15	27	13	235
Common Raven	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Horned Lark	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Purple Martin	9	62	6	0	0	10	108	0	195
Tree Swallow	2	4	3	0	0	10	67	116	202
Northern Rough-									
winged Swallow	11	8	0	2	0	27	1	2	51
Bank Swallow	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	10
Cliff Swallow	9	940	90	0	2	1	0	0	1042
Barn Swallow	24	122	15	2	11	142	195	50	561
Carolina Chickadee	67	57	16	16	12	64	65	10	307
Tufted Titmouse	104	80	14	12	35	84	82	13	424
Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
White-breasted									
Nuthatch	10	0	1	0	3	9	0	3	26
Brown-headed									
Nuthatch	17	8	0	0	6	17	20	8	76
Brown Creeper	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
House Wren	0	13	0	0	0	3	0	0	16
Marsh Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	1	17
Carolina Wren	72	66	25	10	41	94	69	35	412
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	34	22	7	5	13	73	16	11	181
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Eastern Bluebird	40	127	41	2	2	186	52	9	459
Swainson's Thrush	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Wood Thrush	2	9	3	0	3	22	0	0	39
American Robin	21	138	55	0	0	167	1	0	382
Gray Catbird	4	17	1	1	0	11	4	13	51
Northern Mockingbird	98	154	45	5	0	120	75	50	547
Brown Thrasher	13	58	12	1	1	38	15	12	150
European Starling	37	107	98	0	0	99	48	4	393
Cedar Waxwing	23	255	91	0	0	547	38	2	956
Ovenbird	0	2	0	0	2	15	0	0	19
Worm-eating Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	16	2	0	18
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	5	2	0	2	7	0	0	18
Northern Waterthrush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Blue-winged Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Black-and-white									
Warbler	5	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	17
Prothonotary Warbler	24	2	3	0	13	0	11	6	59
Swainson's Warbler	2	0	0	0	8	4	1	0	15

	Aiken	Spart	Cherok	Lexing	Congar	Greenv	Charlest	Jasper	Total
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Kentucky Warbler	5	1	1	1	0	1	21	1	31
Common Yellowthroat	16	13	14	4	1	36	53	15	152
Hooded Warbler	11	5	0	0	13	25	88	5	147
American Redstart	9	6	0	0	1	5	2	0	23
Cape May Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Northern Parula	135	12	4	7	56	27	105	21	367
Magnolia Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Blackburnian Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	6
Blackpoll Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	3	0	0	3	7	1	0	16
Palm Warbler	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Pine Warbler	76	13	6	3	16	38	79	10	241
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	56	0	1	57
Yellow-throated Warbler	8	6	0	0	14	2	36	6	72
Prairie Warbler	16	2	0	0	0	1	10	3	32
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	3	0	0	1	39	0	0	43
Yellow-breasted Chat	49	4	5	1	0	14	3	4	80
Eastern Towhee	68	25	18	1	3	59	52	23	249
Bachman's Sparrow	4	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	16
Chipping Sparrow	9	47	2	1	0	61	1	0	121
Field Sparrow	0	33	22	0	0	23	0	0	78
Savannah Sparrow	2	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	9
Grasshopper Sparrow	0	13	5	0	0	23	0	0	41
Nelson's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Seaside Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Song Sparrow	0	15	0	0	0	30	0	0	45
Swamp Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6
White-throated Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	12
White-crowned Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Dark-eyed Junco	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	7
Summer Tanager	78	11	3	1	18	3	22	9	145
Scarlet Tanager	0	3	0	0	0	21	0	0	24
Northern Cardinal	213	187	30	19	50	153	260	60	972
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	7
Blue Grosbeak	55	12	8	1	2	21	29	4	132
Indigo Bunting	149	26	21	5	26	100	18	13	358
Painted Bunting	16	0	0	0	0	0	77	32	125
Bobolink	6	0	0	0	0	147	12	15	180
Red-winged Blackbird	37	35	10	0	0	115	394	939	1530
Eastern Meadowlark	1	31	24	0	0	86	0	0	142
Common Grackle	39	143	76	1	16	125	91	28	519
Boat-tailed Grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	147	166	313
Brown-headed Cowbird	23	62	8	9	2	22	68	21	215
Orchard Oriole	11	5	5	2	1	10	37	26	97
Baltimore Oriole	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	7
Purple Finch	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
House Finch	25	67	6	0	0	47	46	1	192
American Goldfinch	4	27	14	0	0	102	0	0	147
House Sparrow	7	26	3	0	0	43	0	0	79
Total individuals	3089	4838	1225	195	627	4508	12997	7539	35018

	Aiken	Spart	Cherok	Lexing	Congar	Greenv	Charlest	Jasper	Total
Regular Count									
Hours foot	33	40.5	6.5	5	12.25		5.25	39.2	
Hours car	18	20	3				20.75	16.2	
Hours boat		4							
Hours bike		1	1.5					3	
Hours other						103			
Miles foot	14	35	3.25	4	11.3		3.5	30	
Miles car	193	391	94				133	172.4	
Miles boat		9							
Miles horseback		4	4					10	
Miles bike									
# Regular parties	8	16	2	1			3	9	
# Regular observers	12	23	3	3			5	19	
#Species	109	115	72	47			141	125	
#Individuals	3036	4347	1184	195			7563	4495	
Feeder Watch									
Hours Feeder Watch	2.75	35.5	5.5						
#Feeder Watchers	5	17	2						
#Feeder Stations	9	12	2						
#Species	19	48	8						
#Individuals	61	462	34						
Nocturnal									
Hours Nocturnal	0.75	4.5	2					1.5	
Miles Nocturnal	4.5	38	4					2.1	
#parties nocturnal	1	9	1					1	
#observers nocturnal	1	10	1					7	
#Species	4	5	4					5	
#Individuals	14	29	7					16	
Time Start	5:30	6:00	8:00	7:00			5:45	6:30	
Time Stop	22:15	22:00	22:00	12:00			20:27	19:00	

Received 14 Sep 2012

## BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 2012, unless otherwise noted)

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*Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.*

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

*Reports may be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you use email, list multiple sightings in taxonomic order (rather than by date or location), and type your report directly into the body of the email. If your sightings are in a file, please copy-and-paste the text into the body of the email, rather than sending an attachment.*

*Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.*

*Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.*

*I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.*

*If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.*

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** The individual seen on the campus of Charleston Southern University, North Charleston, SC, first noted 18 Jan (Matthew Campbell, John Kuykendall) remained until 23 May (Kuykendall).

**Ross's Goose:** The individual first seen in Cary, NC, in November, remained in the area until 21 Mar (Jennifer Schrand). One seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville, SC, 14 May (Brad Dalton) through 25 May (*fide* Paul Serridge, m. obs.) was quite late.

**Cackling Goose:** One was seen with a flock of Canada Geese on the upper end of Lake Hickory, Catawba Co, NC, 8 Mar (Dwayne Martin, Lori Owenby, Andrea Bruns, Linda Gilbert) and 11 Mar (Caroline Eastman, Jeff Kline).

**Lesser Scaup:** 150 on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 13 Mar (W. Forsythe, R. Selvey) was a good count for that location.

**Common Eider:** A female remained at Oregon Inlet, NC, throughout the spring and into summer (Audrey Whitlock, Jeff Lewis, m. obs.).

**Surf Scoter:** One was photographed on a gravel pit pond in Orange Co, NC, 1–8 Apr (Barb Brooks). Adult males on Kiawah Island, SC, 22 Apr (David Gardner, Cody Rossetti) and at Oregon Inlet, NC, 23 May (Jeff Lewis) were somewhat late.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** A female at Singletary Lake State Park (SP), Bladen Co, NC, 26 May (Jeff Beane, Ed Corey, Josh Zajdel) was locally unusual and somewhat late.

**Pacific Loon:** One was seen on Lake Hartwell, SC, on the border with Georgia, 11 Mar (Mark Freeman, Mark McShane, et al.) and near the dam on the GA side of the lake, 16 Mar (Lewis Burke, Irvin Pitts). This lake has hosted one or two wintering Pacific Loons for several years now.

**Common Loon:** Somewhat late were two on Falls Lake, NC, 4 May (Daniel Hueholt, et al.); one on Jordan Lake, NC, during the Spring Bird Count (SBC), 6 May (Josh Southern, Sterling Southern); and three at Oregon Inlet, NC, 23 May (Jeff Lewis).

**Horned Grebe:** 50+ birds on Lake Julian, Buncombe Co, NC, 9 Mar (Wayne Forsythe) provided a good count. Some of the later sightings included four on the Southern Pines, NC, SBC, 29 Apr (*fide* Susan Campbell); four on Lake Crabtree, NC, 29 Apr (Mike Turner); one on the N end of Falls Lake, during the Durham, NC, SBC, 29 Apr (Norm Budnitz, et al.); and on Jordan Lake, NC, during the SBC, 6 May (Doug Shadwick, Bob Rybczynski).

**Red-necked Grebe:** One was seen on Lake Hartwell, near Townville, SC, 10 Mar (Matt Johnson, et al.).

**Eared Grebe:** Three were found during the SBC in Southern Pines, NC, 29 Apr (*fide* Susan Campbell).

**Albatross sp.:** An albatross of undetermined species, in the company of gannets, was seen E of Cape Lookout Shoals, NC, no more than five miles offshore, 20 Mar (Eric Kershner). It's possible that this bird was the same Black-browed Albatross seen during a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 18 Feb.

**Northern Fulmar:** Two were seen on the ocean off Oregon Inlet, NC, at the edge of the continental shelf, 11 Mar (Johnny Wilson, et al.).

**Herald (Trindade) Petrel:** One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, a dark-morph, 31 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Fea's Petrel:** Singles were had on pelagic trips out of Hatteras, NC, 24, 29, and 31 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Sooty Shearwater:** Three were seen in flight over the ocean, just off Fort Macon SP, Atlantic Beach, NC, 27 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Lena Gallitano).

**European Storm-Petrel:** One was photographed on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 31 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**White-tailed Tropicbird:** One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 27 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Red-billed Tropicbird:** This other tropicbird species was seen on the same pelagic trip, 27 May (Brian Patteson, et al.), a two-tropicbird trip!

**Wood Stork:** Outside of the species' typical range was one seen perched in a pine tree along NC-94, just S of Columbia, Tyrrell Co, NC, 3 Apr (John Stanton). Five in flight over the Black River in Pender Co, NC, 26 May (Gilbert Grant) were probably part of the breeding colony noted in that area last summer.

**Masked Booby:** One was photographed on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 31 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**American White Pelican:** Transients were found on several inland lakes—three on the N end of Falls Lake in Durham Co, NC, 4 Mar (Eddie Owens); two on Lookout Shoals Lake, Catawba Co, NC, 30–31 Mar (Dwayne Martin, et al.); and two photographed at Woodlake Country Club in Vass, Moore Co, NC, 23 Mar (Linda Jones, Wayne Irvin).

**American Bittern:** The bird seen at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC, throughout the winter, remained until at least 2 May (Paul Serridge, et al.).

**“Great White Heron”:** One was seen at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), SC, in early April (Patricia Voelker, Doug Thigpen, m. obs.).

**Snowy Egret:** Two seen in flight over Prairie Ridge Ecostation in Raleigh, NC, at dawn on 30 Apr (Brian O'Shea) were locally unusual.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** One in flight and calling at Latta Nature Preserve, Charlotte, NC, 19 Apr (Taylor Piephoff) was locally unusual.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Night-herons returned to several traditional inland breeding sites—three to Miller Park in Winston-Salem, NC, 16 Mar (Phil Dickinson); five around Charlotte, NC, 19 Mar (Tom Sanders); and six at the New Hope Creek waterfowl impoundment in Chapel Hill, NC, during the SBC, 12 May (Scott



Glossy Ibis, 10 May 2012, Henderson Co, NC. Photo by Wayne Forsythe.

Winton).

**Glossy Ibis:** An adult was photographed on private land in the French Broad River Valley of Henderson Co, NC, 10 May (Wayne Forsythe), providing a rare mountain record for this species. One found at Woodlake Country Club in Vass, NC, during the Southern Pines SBC, 29 Apr (*fide* Susan Campbell) was unusual for the inland location.

**White-faced Ibis:** Pending review by the SC bird record committee, as the species is not yet on the official state bird list, were two reports from adjacent sites just south of Charleston, SC—one photographed at Fresh Field Farm, Kiawah Island, 12 Apr (James Pope) and one on Seabrook Island, 9 May (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew).

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** Overshooting their breeding range were individuals in Nags Head, NC, 4 Apr (Fred Rimmel); in Frisco, NC, 30 Apr (Eric Frey); and just N of Beaufort, NC, 6 May (John Voigt, John Fussell). Four seen along Hallsboro Road S, SE of Whiteville, Columbus Co, NC, 15 May (Thierry Besançon), may indicate a breeding colony in that area.

**Northern Harrier:** Late individuals were found along Mid-Pines Rd in Raleigh, NC, 5 May (Erla Lynn Beegle); during the SBC in Chapel Hill, NC, 12 May (*fide* Will Cook); and in Halifax Co, NC, 19 May (Nick Flanders, Paul Taillie).

**“Harlan’s Hawk”**: A western sub-species of Red-tailed Hawk, a light-phase adult Harlan’s Hawk was observed at Alligator River NWR, NC, 2 Mar (Mike Tove, Eddie Owens).

**Merlin:** Locally unusual and somewhat late were Merlins on Ft Bragg, NC, during the Southern Pines SBC, 29 Apr (*fide* Susan Campbell); along Mid-Pines Rd in Raleigh, NC, 29 Apr (Mike Tove, Eddie Owens); and along nearby Inwood Rd, 13 May (Lynn Erla Beegle, Jeri Smart).

**Virginia Rail:** A vocalizing male was heard around Salem Lake, Winston-Salem, NC, 7 Apr through the end of the period (John Haire). Haire notes that dam construction had lowered the water level of the lake during the period.

**Purple Gallinule:** One was seen in a wetland along Green Ridge Drive in Mecklenburg Co, NC, 30 Apr (Tom Sanders, Rob Gilson) through 22 May (m. obs.). Remarkably, this sighting was the county’s second in less than a year. An adult was photographed in Nags Head, NC, 20 May (Chip Masterson).

**Common Gallinule:** One was seen on Bridges Lake, off the Neuse River Greenway Trail, Wake Co, NC, 31 Mar (Nick Flanders) through 10 Apr



Purple Gallinule, 20 May 2012, Nags Head, NC. Photo by Chip Masterson.

(Thierry Besançon).

**Sandhill Crane:** Sightings included two in flight over Beaufort, NC, 7 Mar (Rich & Susan Boyd); one on Kiawah Island, SC, 23 Mar (Aaron Given); and one in Jackson Co, NC, 24 Mar (James Poling).

**Semipalmated Plover:** Inland, individuals were found at Falls Lake, NC, 5 May (Brian Bockhahn, et al.); and at the armory wetlands in Lenoir, NC, where photographed 22 May (Walt Kent).

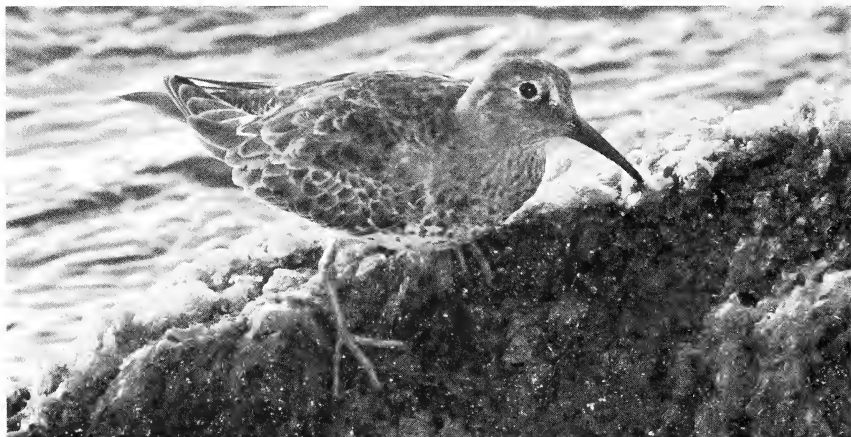
**Piping Plover:** Some of the better counts were 15 at the Rachel Carson Reserve in Beaufort, NC, 11 Mar (Scott Winton); 10–15 at Sunset Beach, NC, 26 May (Daniel Hueholt); and eight on Kiawah Island, SC, 5 Apr (Cherrie Sneed) and 22 Apr (David Gardner).

**Willet:** Seven were found at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, after heavy rains, 26 April (Wayne Forsythe). Though lone transients are sometimes found at sites away from the coast, finding seven at one location is remarkable.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Sightings included one at the sod farm in Orangeburg, SC, 8 Apr (Jeff Kline); three on the lawn of Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, NC, 14 Apr (Eric Dean, Gene Howe); and three photographed at the sod farm off Hooper Lane, Henderson Co, NC, 1 May (Wayne Forsythe).

**Red Knot:** A flock of 51 knots on the beach adjacent to the ferry terminal at Cedar Island, NC, 25 Mar (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) was a good count for a site away from the ocean.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Two seen and heard at the pond adjacent to the Cedar Island, NC, ferry terminal, 15 Apr (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle) were considered early for Carteret County.



Purple Sandpiper, 15 Apr 2012, Oregon Inlet, NC. Photo by Jeff Lewis.

**Purple Sandpiper:** Two on the jetty at Oregon Inlet, NC, 19 Apr (Jeff Lewis) were somewhat late.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Four, one almost in breeding plumage, found in brackish pools near the Cedar Island, NC, ferry terminal, 25 Mar (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) were quite early.



**Red-necked Phalarope:** 87+ were had on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 22 May (Brian Patteson, et al.). A female in breeding plumage at North Pond, Pea Island NWR, NC, 30 May (Audrey Whitlock, et al.) was the only onshore sighting made this spring.

**Little Gull:** One was seen amongst a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls off the beach of Emerald Isle, NC, 10 Mar (Scott Winton). A first-winter bird was seen amongst Bonaparte's Gulls at Lake Crabtree, Wake Co, NC, 9 Mar (Ali Iyob), providing the first inland report of this species in several years.

**Laughing Gull:** Inland, individuals were found at Falls Lake, NC, 1–4 May (Kyle Kittelberger, Daniel Hueholt); at Jordan Lake, NC, 6 May (Rick Payne); and at Lake Benson, Raleigh, NC, 12 May (Kittelberger, et al.).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** One at the upper end of Falls Lake, NC, 5 Mar (Scott Winton) was much farther inland than is typical.

**Glaucous Gull:** A juvenile bird was photographed in North Topsail Beach, NC, 5 Apr (Gilbert Grant).

**Arctic Tern:** Four were had on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 20 May (Brian Patteson, et al.).

**Dovekie:** Three were seen off of Johnnie Mercer's Pier in Wrightsville Beach, NC, 25 Mar (Ali Iyob).

**White-winged Dove:** One was seen in the company of Mourning Doves in Wrightsville Beach, NC, 25 Mar (Ali Iyob). Individuals visited feeders in Goldsboro, NC, 29 Apr through 14 May (Mary Bridges) and in Morehead City, NC, 17–21 May (Carol Reigle).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** One was noted at Buxton Woods, Buxton, NC, 4 Apr (Sarah Clark, Nathan Gatto). Three were heard calling along the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) in the Balsam Mountains, NC, 29 Mar (Mark Simpson, Marilyn Westphal). Also in the NC mountains were individuals heard calling in the Big Ivy area, downslope of the BRP, 2 Apr; at Cherry Log Ridge on the BRP, 7 May; at Beetree Gap in the Craggy Mountains, 16 May; at Devil's Courthouse, 19 May; and at Stepp's Gap, Mt Mitchell SP, 26 May (Simpson, Westphal, et al.).



Rufous Hummingbird, 11 March 2012, Hanahan, NC. Photo by Michael Bernard.

**Rufous Hummingbird:** Wintering "Rufouses" continued to visit feeders in Hanahan, SC, a juvenile male, through 16 Mar (Jack Eckstine); in Conway, SC, a female, until 4 Apr (Jay Chandler); and in Moore Co, NC, a female, mid-March through 9 May (Susan Campbell).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** One was seen, and heard calling, on private property along White Oak Road in Polk Co, NC, 23 May (Chris Kelly).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** One heard singing at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC, 3 Apr (Brad Dalton)

was somewhat early.

**Alder Flycatcher:** 29 were counted in the Black Balsam, Shining Rock Wilderness, and Graveyard Fields areas of the Balsam Mountains, NC, during the SBC, 19 May (*vide* Marilyn Westphal).

**Gray Kingbird:** One found at the ferry landing at Ft Fisher, NC, 30 Apr (Greg Massey), was seen and photographed through 3 May (James Parnell, Bruce Smithson, Ron Clark, Tom Sanders). Though the bird's plumage was similar to that of a Thick-billed Kingbird, vocalizations confirmed its identity as a Gray Kingbird.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** A pair returned to last year's breeding site along Gunter Road in Piedmont, SC, 28 Apr (Brad Dalton, Jane Kramer). An adult male returned to Simpson Research Station in Pendleton, SC, 3 May (Ed Pivorun).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Somewhat early were individuals found along Fishing Creek in Halifax Co, NC, 26 Mar (Ricky Davis); and at the Duke Wetland Center, Durham, NC, 30 Mar (Scott Winton).

**Warbling Vireo:** A pair nested in a Sycamore tree along the edge of Shelley Lake, Raleigh, NC, in late May (m. obs.) after a singing male was first noted there, 4 May (Erla Lynn Beegle, Randy Whittington, et al.).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Early individuals were found along Fishing Creek in Halifax Co, NC, 26 Mar (Ricky Davis) and along the Black River, Bladen and Pender Co, NC, 26 Mar (Merrill Lynch).

**Common Raven:** Sightings outside of the mountains included one at Umstead SP, Raleigh, NC, 4 Mar (Brian Bockhahn); one on Duke campus in Durham, NC, 25 Mar (Dave Snyder); one in Uwharrie National Forest (NF), 8 Apr (Andrew Thornton); and four, including fledglings, at Mayo River SP, Rockingham Co, NC, 10 May (Martin Wall).

**Horned Lark:** Providing further evidence for breeding in the county were three singing males and a juvenile at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 20 May (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). Two seen at Renaissance Golf Course in Mecklenburg Co, NC, during the Charlotte SBC, 28 Apr (*vide* Taylor Piephoff) were thought to be breeding there.

**Tree Swallow:** A pair was found nesting in a bluebird box in Halifax Co, NC, 8 May (*vide* Frank Enders) for a second year in a row.

**Cliff Swallow:** Two over the ferry terminal at Cedar Island, NC, 15 Apr (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Carol Reigle) were locally unusual.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 29 May 2012, Piedmont, SC. Photo by Pam Ford.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Two of the higher counts in May were 409 at Jordan Lake, NC, during the SBC, 6 May (Norm Budnitz); and 620 at Prairie Ridge Ecostation, Raleigh, NC, 11 May (Brian O'Shea). 21 were counted on a Breeding Bird Survey route in Currituck and Camden Co, NC, 27 Apr (Jeff Lewis).

**Swainson's Warbler:** Two singing males found along US-17 near Verona, Onslow Co, NC, 1 Apr (John Fussell) were quite early. 31 along a 35 mile stretch of the Roanoke River, downstream of Halifax, NC, 3-4 May (Eddie Owens) made a good count. One found singing on territory at Hanging Rock SP, Stokes Co, NC, 13 May (Ron Morris, Jeff Turner) was a first for that county.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Three at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC, 5 Apr (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey) made a good count for the mountain region.

**Connecticut Warbler:** One was heard singing in the Pisgah NF, Transylvania Co, NC, 21 Apr (Kendrick Weeks). One was reported from Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem, NC, 4 May (Sarah Clark, Nathan Gatto).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Surveys of the Roanoke River breeding population found four along a five mile stretch downriver of Weldon, NC, 6 May (Frank Enders); and six along a 15 mile stretch downriver of Weldon, NC, 19 May (Nick Flanders, Scott Winton, Paul Taillie, Mark Kosiewski, Natalia Ocampo Penuela). Migrants at Battle Park, Rocky Mount, NC, 28 Apr (Ricky Davis) and at Caesar's Head SP, Greenville Co, 30 Apr (Irvin Pitts) were locally unusual.

**Magnolia Warbler:** One seen and heard singing along the Bald Knob Ridge Trail, near the entrance to Mt Mitchell SP, Yancey Co, NC, 24 May into June (Marilyn Westphal, Mark Simpson, Ron Clark, Debra Segal) was suggestive of breeding in that area.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** An adult male that visited a birdbath in Longtown, Fairfield Co, SC, 8 Mar (*vide* Donna Slyce) must have overwintered in the area, as it was way too early for a migrant.

**Prairie Warbler:** 26 singing males within a one and a half mile stretch of Navy Shell Rd, Alligator River NWR, NC, 31 Mar (Jeff Lewis) provided a good count for that date.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Two were seen at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 11 Mar (John Fussell, Jack Fennell).

**Vesper Sparrow:** One was photographed at Lake Betz, Research Triangle Park, NC, 8 Apr (Jennifer Schrand).

**Lark Sparrow:** One was photographed in the Sandhills Game Land, Scotland Co, NC, 23 Apr (Jeff Beane). Another individual was seen at nearby Ft Bragg, NC, during the Southern Pines, NC, SBC, 29 Apr (*vide* Susan Campbell).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** One was found at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 18 Mar (John Fussell, et al.).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** The bird that wintered at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, was relocated 11 Mar and 18 Mar (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, et al.).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** Continuing from winter were two at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, 11 Mar (John Fussell, Jack Fennell); and four or five at the same location, 18 Mar (Fussell, et al.).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Individuals were found along Four Mile Creek Greenway in S Charlotte, NC, 16 Apr (Taylor Piephoff); at Renaissance Golf Course during the Charlotte, NC, SBC, 28 Apr (Piephoff); and during the Durham, NC, SBC, 29 Apr (Tom Driscoll, et al.).

**Western Tanager:** One visited a yard on Hilton Head Island, SC, where photographed, 4–7 Mar (Stanton Allaben). An adult male that visited a feeder in N Durham, NC, 26 Mar (Della Zimmerman, *fide* Scott Winton) was probably the same bird that visited the feeder in February.

**Dickcissel:** Counts of the breeding population at North River Farms, Carteret Co, NC, included three singing males 29 Apr (John Fussell, Jack Fennell) and ten singing males 20 May (Fussell, Fennell). Lone females were found in SE Catawba Co, NC, 30 Apr (Monroe Pannell); and at Lake Conestee Nature Park, Greenville, SC, 18 May (Paul Serridge).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** The individual seen at the WTP along NC-191 in Henderson Co, NC, originally found 2 Jan, remained through 8 Mar (Wayne Forsythe). A "handful" were seen during a field trip to Dobbins Cattle Farm in Townville, SC, 10 Mar (Matt Johnson, et al.).

**Red Crossbill:** The best count from the NC mountains was ten at Balsam Gap, along the BRP, border of Buncombe and Yancey Co, NC, 30 May (Marilyn Westphal, Mark Simpson).



Lincoln's Sparrow, 16 Apr 2012, Charlotte, NC. Photo by Phil Fowler.

## In Memoriam: Thomas L. Quay

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### John I. Connors

*Coordinator of the Naturalist Center, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-1029  
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### Tom the Quack

There aren't many Carolina Bird Club members from the last century who didn't know Dr. Tom Quay. He was an ornithological institution in this state. Tom died on April 16, 2012 at age 96.

Many of us remember Dr. Quay as a Professor of Ornithology at North Carolina State University. He helped establish the Fish and Wildlife curriculum. He was deeply interested in his students, in wildlife research and in the conservation of natural resources. His research interests included various sparrows, Cliff Swallows, Mourning Doves, woodcock, waterfowl, shorebirds, and colonial nesting waterbirds. He was mentor to many graduate students, and many went on to have extraordinary careers themselves. Names like Hester, Parnell, Soots, Sykes, Grant, McCrimmon, Fussell and Hamilton come to mind.

I took ornithology as an undergraduate in 1973, and later was Dr. Quay's teaching assistant in 1979. Our class field trips were memorable. There was a time I saw him dive into a Carteret County salt marsh to emerge grinning while holding a Black Rail. We visited Rachel Carson Sanctuary to view nesting terns and skimmers. He introduced us to roosting Chimney Swifts at Lacey School in Raleigh, and hiked us into a blackbird roost by flashlight at night. Tom Quay helped me get my first job—Paul Sykes told me Quay did the same for him. He was that committed. Tom and I remained close friends through the years, eating breakfast monthly at Baxleys or Finches. He invited me to call him “*Tom the Quack*”.

Tom came to Raleigh in 1938 to begin his graduate studies. His mentors were Professors Cary Bostian, Z. P. Metcalf and B. W. Wells—folks who have campus buildings named after them. The campus was on the rural fringe of Raleigh, and Tom would walk to his research sites. Much of the wildlife research was descriptive then, and some would say simpler—if by simple you mean drawing maps by hand, calculating everything longhand, and using a Remington typewriter for each draft of your thesis.

Tom completed his Master's studying “The Ecological Succession of Winter Birds at Raleigh NC” in 1940. His PhD dissertation, “The Ecology of the Savannah Sparrow in Winter at Raleigh, NC”, was finished in 1948—the first PhD awarded at NCSU—and he assumed a faculty position thereafter. He taught for 32 years. Dr. Quay was chairman of 53 graduate student projects and served on 300 graduate student committees. He has been

recognized for his contributions many times, and in 1994 Dr. Quay was inducted into the NC Wildlife Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame.

Tom was also a birder and a long-time member of the Carolina Bird Club. He attended the 1938 Christmas Bird Count in Raleigh with T. Gilbert Pearson and the Brimley brothers, and did not miss another Raleigh CBC (other than the war years) through 2006. He was editor of *The Chat* from 1951–1953.

Mentoring students was very important to Dr. Quay and so in the 1990s an endowment entitled the Thomas L. Quay Wildlife and Natural Resources Undergraduate Experiential Learning Award was created to provide opportunities for undergraduates to experience research—he would want me to mention that to you, so that you can consider making a donation.

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## Fifty Years Ago in *The Chat*—September 1962

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Evening Grosbeaks had been unknown in the Carolinas until a large irruption in the winter of 1951–1952. During the following decade a series of irruptions occurred, and in the September 1962 issue, B. R. Chamberlain summarized in great detail the 1961–1962 irruption, the fifth in the series. In this flight, Evening Grosbeaks reached Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In the Carolinas, the first individuals appeared at the end of October but arrivals peaked in December, and birds remained into early May, with some being noted on spring counts.

Attention was being given to the rapid increase of Cattle Egrets, which had first appeared just a few years before. They too were noted on some spring counts, and field notes summarized records from a number of locations in North Carolina. They were reported as far north and inland as Durham and Raleigh, NC.

Also in the summary of spring counts, the Charleston, SC count once again reported a single Bachman's Warbler.

A Cinnamon Teal at Knott's Island, NC in April 1962 was the second sight record for the state. B. Rhett Chamberlain relayed a report of Prothonotary Warbler near Elkin, NC, with the comment "reports of Prothonotary Warbler above the fall line in the Carolinas are scarce". Mrs. Robert P. Holmes reported on two male and three female Pine Grosbeaks at Mt. Olive, NC, on 9–10 April 1962, "watched all day by groups of people which at times were large enough to obstruct traffic on the nearby street".

—Kent Fiala, editor

# CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

[www.carolinabirdclub.org](http://www.carolinabirdclub.org)

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization which represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its official website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.
- To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.
- To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.
- To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.
- To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.
- To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.

Membership is open to all persons interested in the conservation, natural history, and study of wildlife with particular emphasis on birds. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club may be deductible from state and federal income and estate taxes. Make checks payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Send checks or correspondence regarding membership or change of address to the Headquarters Secretary. Dues include \$6 for a subscription to the *CBC Newsletter* and \$7 for a subscription to *The Chat*. Associate members do not receive a separate subscription to publications.

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